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FAMILY GUIDE

TO

BRUSSELS.

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THE

FAMILY GUIDE

TO

BRUSSELS:

COMPRISING

HINTS UPON HIRING HOUSES, FURNITURE, SERVANTS, COST OF LIVING, EDUCATION,

AND THE

GENERAL INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR A FAMILY PURPOSING TO RESIDE IN THAT CITY,

BY

J. R. SCOTT, of Brussels.

"NIL DESPERANDUM TEUCRO DUCE ET AUSPICE TEUCRO."—HOR.

SECOND EDITION.

BRUSSELS - - 28, AVENUE DE LA TOISON D'OR.

LONDON - - - EDWARD STANFORD, 55, CHARING CROSS, S.W.

ST. ALBANS - GIBBS AND BAMFORTH.

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ENGLAND:
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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE object of this little volume is to supply a want which the writer is assured has often been felt by families contemplating to reside abroad for any length of time, whether actuated by motives of pleasure, education, or economy. It has for its basis the numerous enquiries addressed to him in letters, and in conversations held on the subject in his professional capacity as English Agent at Brussels. The various questions asked have been carefully noted down, the answers generalized, and their practical application adapted to the work; and he has endeavoured to give as fully as his business avocations have allowed him the leisure, the summary of his personal experience of some years standing in Belgium in a complete and digested form; entering into particulars which replies by post would not admit of. There will, of course, arise from time to time particular questions requiring specific answers, which the writer will always be very happy to afford, and by directing his attention to such he trusts to be enabled to make a revised edition even more adapted to meet the requirements of intending visitors to this country.

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The great difficulty hitherto experienced by many has been in obtaining pratical information—information such as a family requires on subjects affecting their daily wants, expenses, etc.; and facts have been culled from the writer's professional experience for the purpose of giving correct and trustworthy opinions to strangers. The numerous Continental Guides which have been already given to the public are only intended to meet either the necessities of summer visitors or as mediums for advertising particular houses of business, and fail to give those useful instructions to which *Paterfamilias* more particularly directs his attention, as it will be readily understood that there is a great difference in the kind of knowledge required by the mere bird of passage flying through the country in pursuit of pleasure and sight seeing, and that which is sought by a family with all the diversified and important cares attending its removal to a foreign country; where the laws and local usages differ materially from our own, and with which it is highly necessary to be acquainted before making one's engagements. It must be premised that it is not his intention to paint everything *couleur de rose*. The advantages and disadvantages will be alike fairly submitted, and considering the difficulty of giving advice thereon, the interested reader must himself weigh the pros and cons deduced herein, and draw his own conclusion as to the desirableness of making his abode in this country; and we hope that our aim will not be altogether unsuccessful in rendering the following pages of some service. The writer has striven to the best of his ability to give his remarks in a concise and intelligible manner, and the kind forbearance of the public is solicited for any literary faults tnat may be met with. As a man of business having but few opportunities of attaining any degree of perfection in such a task, he

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relies more on the soundness of his views and his efforts to render them as practical as possible, than on the style in which they are conveyed in order to meet with the approbation of his readers. He must also apologise for same few clerical errors, for which the compositor is more particularly responsible.

17, RUE DES PETITS CARMES, 1870.

——:o:——

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

Since the first edition of my "Family Guide to Brussels" was issued, now some thirteen years since, great European changes have taken place, and the Franco-German War has materially affected Brussels in many ways, and obliges me thoroughly to revise what I wrote concerning it in 1870. This task, I trust, I have accomplished in a satisfactory manner, and hope that the Guide may again be found in every way trustworthy and reliable.

With regard to my critics, I little anticipated either praise or blame, and the only recompense I expected to receive for my trouble and outlay, was that my little book with all its faults, might possibly be of some service to those families who were unacquainted with the country. Relying on the experience which guided my pen, I could not anticipate that it would fall utterly valueless to the ground, I therefore received with unaffected pride and pleasure, the numerous private letters sent by utter strangers, and to whom I beg to tender, at this the first convenient opportunity that is afforded me, my very grateful

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thanks for their kind words of approbation. I must also acknowledge the courtesy shown to me by the Reviewers of the Press and the favourable comments made by them in the Independant Journals, to whom the work was submitted. They have had no little influence in deciding me to bring out a Revised Edition.

I may be permitted to give two or three extracts from those letters; one received from the daughter of the late Tom Hood. She herself is now no more, the gifted children of that inimitable punster and poet have not enjoyed a long life. The admitted literary ability of his family allowed me to flatter myself, without egotism, that I had done well to merit her commendation.

28, AVENUE DE LA TOISON D'OR,
BRUSSELS,
December, 1883.

——:o:——

DOWN HOUSE,
PORTISHEAD,
June 14th.

SIR,

Pray accept my best thanks for your letter which contained some very useful information for which I am much obliged . . . . . .

I am exceedingly obliged by your kind offer of help with the passport, but I think I need not trouble you, as I have written to my brother, Mr. Tom Hood, the Editor of "Fun," who will arrange that for me.

The little volume on Brussels, which led us to seek you, is most invaluable to all about to go to Brussels. Again begging you to accept my best thanks,

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,

MR. SCOTT. FRANCES F. BRODERIP.

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——— Vicarage,
———, England,
October 28th, 73.

Dear Sir,

I am trusting to your courtesy to excuse me, who am a perfect stranger, for writing to you, but thus the matter happens. I am the Vicar of this parish, and about a year ago I obtained through my bookseller your little volume, which I have before me as I write, "The Family Guide to Brussels." Excuse my saying what a nicely written and useful book it is, and upon it be the blame of my trespassing upon your time. I have a daughter about 15 at school in England, and in the coming year I have a desire to place her for a time at a school abroad, and was thinking of Germany, but after taking up your book my thoughts have turned to Brussels . . . . . and sojourn for a time in your fair city, and now with a reiterated apology,

I am,
Yours faithfully,

J. R. Scott, Esq. ———

——:o:——

British Legation,
Brussels,
26th May, 1871.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 23rd inst., with two copies of your work entitled "The Family Guide to Brussels," of which you request me to accept one copy, and to present the other to Mr. Lumley.

In return I beg to express my thanks, and I am authorised by Mr. Lumley to thank you for this useful gift.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Mr. J. R. Scott. H. Barron, Bart.

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FAMILY GUIDE TO BRUSSELS.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Introductory Remarks—Inducements for coming to reside at Brussels—Cheaper Towns—How to make the best of a Small Income—Families which derive the greatest advantages—Cost of Living compared with England—Small Families of Moderate Pretentions—Summary of advantages offered to Families of good position.

IT will be convenient in this preliminary chapter, to touch on some subjects which are entered into more fully when treated of separately; and in order to give a general idea of the advantages that Brussels, as a continental residence, offers to those families who have not definitely made up their minds but are in quest of general information, it will also be most advisable in the first place, to take a discursive view of the question that may assist them in so doing.

To many, Brussels is as well-known and as easy to remove to, as Bath or Cheltenham, but to numbers the change is a more serious and anxious affair. They may see and appreciate the advantages to be gained, more particularly for the younger branches, by a few years' or even a few months' residence in a good continental city, but they are also afraid, that a thousand lurking drawbacks

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or extra expenses might arise, which would not atone for breaking up a well appointed home elsewhere. It must be allowed that many inconveniences are attached to our own apartments at watering places, and other fashionable localities. But if an English lodging house has its evils, at any-rate one knows how to grapple with them at home, and there are but few of the lesser ills of life which money cannot everywhere alleviate. We therefore address ourselves more particularly to those who choose a continental residence in an economical point of view, and who do not mind availing themselves of the information necessary to carry out that object. Other visitors may also gather hints which will save them much trouble and needless expense; and having endeavoured to explain the customs of the country, the rules and ways of Belgian tradespeople and lodginghouse keepers, particularly as applied to English visitors, every class, by a perusal of our remarks, will perhaps be better able to cope successfully with any little difficulty. A temporary residence at Brussels offers many substantial advantages, and some who select a continental home, prefer it from choice to its gayer and more seductive rival—Paris.

The English who come to reside in Brussels are not composed solely of those who are actuated strictly by motives of economy or educational purposes. To this class of new comers no guide is absolutely necessary. To loosen the strings of a well-filled purse, which can be readily replenished, requires no previous study; and therefore, its happy proprietor feels no apprehension of encountering any serious difficulty in removing to Belgium or elsewhere, neither need he. With many the educational advantages offered suffice to atone for any contingent inconvenience. Others, not having an income sufficient to support the position in England their birth not only entitles them to, but also exacts of them, find in Brussels (more particularly those with families) a charming retreat; society agreeable, yet not extravagant; amusements more restricted but rational, refined and within easy reach; education so superior that many of the first families of the old and new worlds, influenced more particularly thereby, congregate hither, and tend to render it one of the most

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cosmopolitan of fashionable cities. These are, in fact, the principal inducements which are offered to English visitors. One must not look upon Brussels as being so strictly an economical city as it used to be some years ago, when it was also badly paved, badly drained, and altogether inferior in every respect to the city as it now stands. When economy is the sole object held in view by a family accustomed to live cheaply in England, then Malines, Bruges and other towns are more recommendable places of resort. One has more society at Brussels, meeting congenial compatriots at every step; its educational advantages are nowhere surpassed; and it is a pleasant, cheerful, healthy city, where one can scarcely feel even momentarily expatriated. It is cheaper than London or Paris; but it is dearer than an English country town, fifty miles away from any of the great centres of industry. One may live cheaply in Brussels; but, perhaps, there is no cheaper place in the world than London, for any one who chooses to sink his position and individuality; yet there are few places in the world where one would care to spend a small income in preference to Brussels, providing they can still feel assured of being able to strike the balance on the right side at the end of the year, for they would not, in order to effect this, be called on to practice so much abnegation as is requisite in London, or be debarred from so many of the *agréments* of polite society. This must, of course, depend principally on themselves; with skilful and proper management, becoming as speedily as possible acquainted with the best markets, and by securing good servants, they may obtain a better return for their money than those having double the income, but who at the same time are less solicitous. All the troubles which attended "The Dodd Family Abroad,"* sprang from keeping up false appearances and exceeding their income. They travelled and lived *en grands seigneurs*, and a vast amount of inconvenience and unpleasantness was the result; the same follows equally

* The author of this entertaining novel was for some years a resident at Brussels, and has made it the scene of many of the Dodd family's misadventures.

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in England and elsewhere; but it encounters less encouragement here, where tradesmen are ignorant of the value of a family name, or have so little faith in it, and where but few have the capital required to enable them to give long credit on the expensive system adopted by some houses of business in England. By all means let us still have the old-fashioned English traveller, with his well-known peculiarities, but with an important purse and sterling character to qualify them. He has made his countrymen the subject of high-flown panegyric in many a poverty-stricken kursaal and bazaar.

Families in the receipt of good incomes derive a greater economical advantage, generally speaking, by living here, than those possessing small ones, as the former do not usually keep up such large establishments, nor such expensive society as when residing in England. The difference in value of the strict necessaries of life cannot alone hold out a sufficient inducement for residing here. Take for instance the agricultural products of Belgium, a free and ready market so near as London, would naturally prevent any great divergency from existing between the two countries, in the prices of most articles of daily consumption, and it is principally owing to the adoption of free trade in England, that the cost of living in Belgium has become so much higher within the last twenty or thirty years. Again, the effect of the strikes and trade unions in England and the increased development of its own mineral treasures, have also tended so enormously to expand the resources of this industrious little kingdom; thus the former, aided by its own indefatigable industry, has suffered it to become a successful competitor in the markets of the world to a very great extent. This increase of trade has materially augmented the wealth, and necessarily the cost of living in the country. Yet, notwithstanding this, and the open markets for their produce in all-consuming London, which give such profitable returns to the Belgian producer, there still remains an important difference in favour of Belgium. Rent, which is a great consideration, will be found lower, and living cheaper; and although it would not be an easy matter to define strictly the difference it makes in one's

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income at the end of the year, it is a favourite saying with many, that the franc in Belgium is equivalent to or goes as far as the shilling in England. This would be an easy way of disposing of a difficult and important question, but it is necessary to premise that on this point opinions are very conflicting; some say that they find Brussels to be a cheap place, whilst others, so far from admitting this, affirm that it is even a dear one. Speaking from personal experience, and having relations with both countries, a far better return for one's money is to be obtained in Belgium; but the best way to arrive at a correct and satisfactory conclusion, will be to consult the scale of prices appended, and compare those prices with what you are accustomed to pay for the same article where at present located, and at the same time not to lose sight of the less direct advantages on either side. For small families the difference is too unimportant, as with them other considerations would probably have more weight; they may depend on being able so live as well and as cheaply here as in any other conveniently situated continental city, where they could take a trip to; and it is not an expensive hazard for them to solve the question by a few weeks' practical experience.

Apartments to accommodate a small family of grown-up persons are easily obtainable, and are certainly cheaper, cleaner, and better in every respect than those of the well-known lodging-houses of London, the seaside and fashionable watering places. Attendance is also given in many houses for a very moderate remuneration. Dinners can be sent in from a *traiteur*, if not provided by the landlady, or you can dine out at the numerous restaurants—a choice which renders the engagements of servants unnecessary, and disposes of any possible housekeeping difficulty for this class of visitors. There are also a few nice and well conducted boarding houses and private hotels. It would be invidious to name them here, but we have found them to be generally of first-class character, where one meets distinguished and refined society.

Moving with children, on a small income, is a more serious consideration, and having been asked for advice on this snbject so repeatedly, it is necessary to treat it

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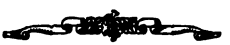
with the greatest circumspection. Unquestionably, the principal advantage to be derived by coming to Brussels, lies as before stated, more indirectly than in the relative cost of the strict necessaries of life; for the requirements of different classes, vary as much as their tastes and habits—luxuries to one being necessities to another. The general advantages offered at Brussels may be summed up as follows:—the less expensive habits of good society and a less pretentious style of living being exacted; travelling, amusements, and most luxuries being cheaper; the price of wines, hire of carriages, and wages of upper servants are lower, and the cost of education much more moderate (masters, governesses, professors of all the superiors accomplishments being paid considerably less than in England). These considerations have a very important bearing on the subject, as the class of people here presumed to be most particularly interested, are not such as have been roughly nurtured and are indifferent to them—but those possessing more blue blood than golden sinews. It may be added that nowhere else would they receive the same due consideration or be more respected, no matter whatever their actual circumstances may be, so long as they are content to spend rather a few pounds less than over their annual income. When economy is not a *sine quâ non*, it generally has some influence in determining families where to fix their continental abode; but such as do not make this a consideration must bear in mind that the speculatively got up *maison garnie* abroad cannot be expected to vie with their well-appointed country halls and granges, or with the fashionable town mansion; but hints will be duly given as to how they may obtain a residence in keeping with their position and wishes.



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BRUSSELS.

The City and its Inhabitants—The late Improvements—Character of the Upper Town and Lower Town—Central Position on the Continent—General Attractions—Bois de la Cambre.

BRUSSELS is a charming city, and thousands of our compatriots will re-echo our opinion; its inhabitants are a genial, good natured race of people, proud of their English visitors; and although isolated instances of over-reaching may occur in their dealings with them, such form the exception and not the rule. It is scarcely necessary to give a more minute description of the city than will presently follow, it being generally speaking, so well-known in these days of cheap and rapid travelling, when after breakfasting at an ordinary hour in London, you may arrive there the same day in time to dine at the *table d'hote* of one of its famous hotels on its magnificent Place Royale; a pleasure trip which few English people fail to avail themselves of from time to time. But although it would be fulsome to dilate on its interesting sights and general beauties, still those who have not had an opportunity of visiting it for some few years past, would at present note an immense improvement which has of late been made in every direction, more particularly during the last decade, and at the instigation of the late Burgomaster Monsieur Anspach, whose ideas and projects were far in advance of the century he lived in.

The Upper Town is scrupulously clean and neat. There the new and fashionable Quartiers Leopold and Louise are extending rapidly, and the high plateau which ranges from the Champ de Manœuvres to Uccle, are now crested with streets of mansions and pretty villas; many of them being planned on a commanding scale. At Uccle an extensive property is owned by Mons. Brugmann, an opulent Brussels banker, whose enterprise has done so much to embellish this charming suburb. We trust his foresight and courage will eventually bring him an ample return for his capital.

In the Lower Town that abominable gutter styled the River Senne has been turned into a proper sewer and

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covered with new Boulevards, which are flanked on either side with palatial warehouses and shops. Rotten old tumbled-down tenements have been replaced by stone-built mansions. Epidemics are now no longer generated, or diseases aggravated by defective drainage, and besides being a great embellishment to the city, a new and busy commercial centre has thus been also added to the metropolis of Belgium.

The rapidly increasing prosperity of the country is in no manner made more apparent than in the adornment and sanitary improvements of their dearly loved capital. Its civic authorities have followed in the wake of Baron Haussmann during the last Napoleonic era, and are sparing no expense to render it one of the most charming of continental cities—the chief one in this flourishing little kingdom of nearly six millions of industrious people; the seat of a popular court, which is closely connected by family ties with our own and other Royal families in Europe; its neutral position, jealously guarded by the Great Powers, and unaffected by any of the conflicting problems, which periodically hover in the political horizon of the day; and the happy change from having been for centuries the Cock Pit of Europe, to become the highway and centre of communication between the greater portion of the several countries on the Continent; these and other attractions tend to render it a favourite resort for English and foreign families of distinction, and few of any class regret a temporary exile to its hospital hearths. A large tract of the "Bois de la Cambre" has been transformed into a splendid public park of charming avenues, roads, and lake, which scarcely loses by comparison with the Bois de Boulogne at Paris, and to ourselves it is far less artificial. The artist—for none other than an artist could have shewn such taste in the conception of his plans—has succeeded in rendering it the most charming promenade in Europe. In one of its pleasant glades the members of the Brussels Cricket Club often attract the elite of the English residents to participate in their national game, and other sports; and excite the curiosity of the phlegmatic natives, who are seldom trained to such hardy and invigorating pastimes.

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THE BELGIANS.

The Ancient and Modern Belgians—Domestic Character—The Old Nobility—The New—The False—Our Own and the Claimant.

HERE live still the "Belgæ" much about the same in character we should imagine as Cæsar presented them to us in our school days. We were rather fond of them them, as like the ancient Britons they did not mind a good stand-up fight:

"Fortissimi omnium Belgæ"—JULIUS CÆSAR.

They have, we opine, degenerated more than we have in this respect. A Balaclava charge would scarcely allow the gravity of the rotund Belgian Commandant to remain well seated in his saddle, and the school-boy here has no idea of the importance of a straight hit from the shoulder, as a Rugby boy impresses on the nasal organ of the bully he is chastising. Still we love them better now in our maturer days, as they deal in famous poultry, fresh butter, new laid eggs and good milk, wherewith to regale our animal necessities—their music and paintings to refresh our intellectuel senses—their "bonhommie" and artless single-minded characters in general. "Braves Belges"; yes, brave indeed, in a good and true sense; a term too often employed by thoughtless strangers in accents of derision, but we, who know them so well, and respect them so much, will re-echo those words, and say how well they merit that title in a domestic sense. Hard workers; cheerful toilers; kind masters; faithful servants; true, unenvious allies of the great British Empire (how unlike their Gallic neighbours!); generous devoted hosts of so many thousands of its subjects.

Most of the old Belgian Seigneurs have migrated from the city to the Quartier Leopold and many from thence to the Quartier Louise. They have fled from their mural dungeons inside the Boulevards—from their iron bound

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windows and shot-proof gates—as did our Somersets, Buckinghams, Norfolks, and Northumberlands, from the Strand to Mayfair and Belgravia. That dismal old Rue aux Laines and many other streets of the same class were, within our recollection, nearly peopled by ancient Dukes and Counts of pre-historic Flemings. They have trooped off bag and baggage from their ghost-ridden old oaken wainscotted rooms, their grand courtyards and spacious gardens, their vineries and fig trees, under which their forefathers had basked when William the Conqueror was in swaddling clothes, and the ancestors of our ducal houses of Grosvenor(*) and Russell(†) were huntsmen—market gardeners and A.1 policemen! Shades of the old Belgian nobility—your titles and honours have not been swept away by the all destructive broom of a native Robespierre. But what a thousand pities it is that your titles should of late be strewn so broadcast! Nearly three thousand, we are told in a daily paper, have within the last fifty years been bestowed, many of which on mushroom upstarts. (According to the official list, as we understand it, only about *one* thousand have been created or recognised during that period; but that the complete list of the Belgian nobility amounts to three thousand. It is, however, immaterial; it is sufficiently significant). How can an ignorant Englishman justly appreciate the value of the grand title of the Prince de Ligne or the Duc d'Aremberg, when he may possibly be shaved by a Chevalier or buy his postage stamps of a Baron,

"Who is passing rich on £40 a year!"

* These comparisons are rather far fetched and are made more to round a period than to mislead our readers, which at the same time would be impossible to the class who are likely to read and smile over them. We may quote the following, yet otherwise well-known facts, from *The Peerage*, which will possibly excuse the simile: The ancestors of the great house of Westminster are descended from the "Gros Veneur" of the Duchy of Normandy, but the rich possession of Belgravia sprang from marrying the heiress of the market gardens in that district.

† From the De Rozeles of Normandy descended John Russell, Constable of Corfe Castle in 1221, from whom in the eight generation was John Russell, Comptroller of the Household to Henry VIII. (of pious memory).

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We are digressing from our subject—not we believe from facts. We, English ourselves, with our proud nobility, occasionally hear of an earl (*) acting as clown and marrying a ballet girl; or a baronet (†) doing "Box and Cox," driving a hansom cab, or trailing his ancient name before the select audience which daily regales the nostrils of Sir James Paget at Bow Street; but here, where there is to be found some of the oldest and most illustrious families in the history of Europe, new titles now spring up like mushrooms in a paddock of entire horses, and decorations are showered in clouds like thistle-down in an autumnal gale. We have sat at the feet of Gamaliel. Have heard the Belgian Solons within the last few months condemn the pseudo nobles of ancient Ghent—the Ghent of Artevelde and our English Edward—to trumpery fines for usurping false titles, and that in a country where they are now of so little account. "Figurez-vous," as they say here so expressively, the ediles of the towns of Birmingham or Leicester being occupied in bringing to book batches of electro-plated spoonies. The Baron of Brass Buttons or the Knight of the Buskin and Hose would scarcely deign or dare to sully the annals of the counties which gave titles to Earls, such as those of Warwick and Leicester, or he would be laughed into penitence like our gaol languishing nobleman of luckless fame whose wit out-matched an embryo Lord Chief Justice, but was unequal to the task of keeping his "squaw" in the paths of honesty and virtue.

* Earl P——t (*Debrett's Peerage*, 1874). Son—W——m T——r T——s, Visocunt H——n born at Southsea, Dec. 19, 1849, educated at——was sometimes engaged as a clown and professional pantomimist at the Surrey Theatre and elsewhere under the *nom de plume* of "Mr. C——n," married December 6, 1869, Miss L——a A——n S——y, a ballet dancer, &c.

† There are well-known instances of these facts.

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THE CITY AND SUBURBS.

The Upper Town—Fashionable part of Brussels—Population—The Faubourgs—The City within the Boulevards—The Rotten Row—Description of the Streets in the Quartier Leopold—Ixelles—Quartier Louise.

THE upper town, owing to its more elevated position, its light, dry sandy foundation, and from being composed of modern-built houses, wider and more regularly constructed streets, forms the most desirable portion of Brussels, and is generally preferred by English visitors for residence. It is the fashionable part or west end of the capital, where the court and notabilities of the kingdom reside, to the description of which our remarks may in consequence be confined. At the time the Octroi or town dues were abolished, the gates and railing, which had hitherto formed a barrier on the Boulevards between the city and its suburbs were removed, but the names of the former are still conveniently retained in order to divide the Boulevards into several distinct districts. We may take the Rue Royale as the western boundary of the fashionable quarter of Brussels, which extends right and left eastwards from the Boulevards, the Porte de Schaerbeek and the Porte de Hal being respectively the northern and southern limits. Here the majority of English residents dwell and consequently it is more directly interesting to the new comers; we will therefore give a few remarks about its quartiers and private streets. We shall not enter very minutely into a description of the several streets of the city itself; if we were thus tempted, our imagination would be calling up the dead and buried Brussels of the past, not the charming and actual city of to-day. Our heart would dwell with the mediæval old Flemish Bourg and its Maestres. Those

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old rotund, well fed, good fellows, clad in their own home spun doublets and laced frills, who dealt out stern and ready justice alike to their Spanish oppressors and to such of their own Falstaffs and Bardolphs who did not keep their nocturnal potations within bounds.

The Brussels of to-day contains a population within the city proper of 170,000 inhabitants. These are within the circuit of the Boulevards—a circumference of about six miles—outside of which we have the Faubourgs—first and foremost of which are Ixelles, Schaerbeek, and St. Gilles, then St. Josse ten Noode, Anderlecht, Etterbeek, Laeken, and Molenbeek St. Jean. These united with the city, give a total population of nearly 600,000; not in all more than equal to a fair sized London parish, or to the cities of Liverpool and Glasgow; but which for its historical records or importance on the map of Europe will always claim attention and interest, setting aside its other attractions in the eyes of its English visitors.

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THE CITY.—Within the Boulevards.

One does not expect to find or think of taking either houses or apartments within the city unless, it be in the upper portion, like the Boulevards de Waterloo or du Regent, and although these are within the city boundary, they appear more connected with the Quartiers Leopold and Louise. In the centre of the city we have the Grand Place, with its magnificent Hotel de Ville, the governing seat of its city Ediles—with its flower girls and cheap jacks of all descriptions. On the adjacent new Boulevards d'Anspach, de Hainaut, du Midi, du Nord, and de la Senne, we abound in apartments furnished and unfurnished on the continental system, and adapted more for themselves

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than for the English. Here we have also that beautiful architectural building, the "Bourse." The temporary Post Office in the old Temple des Augustins, the Fish Market, Custom House, the Grand, and other equally famous hotels, with innumerable cafés and restaurants. We are midway between the two most important railway stations—that of the "Midi," which line takes you to Paris, the centre and south of Europe, to England *viâ* Calais; and that of the "Nord," which goes to Holland and the north, or lands you at the Ports of Antwerp and Ostend, where may be found the boats for England and the Great West. We have little to do here with these old streets and the grand thoroughfares which have been recently made. They abound in good shops, good and reasonable hotels, and restaurants; but they are principally patronised by the natives themselves, for whose delectation they are specially adapted. The Grand 'Place covers a space of 98 ares, or nearly two-and-a-half acres. We will refer to it again further on. Near it are the Galeries St. Hubert, a pleasant little covered thoroughfare, well lighted and composed of smart shops. This is a favourite rendezvous at all hours and for all sorts of persons. Close by is also the Place de la Monnaie, with its handsome little opera house.

The Boulevard from the Port de Schaerbeek to the Porte de Hal consists of three splendid avenues, respectively appropriated to Promenade, Driving, and Equestrian Exercises, so forming the "Rotten Row" and "Park Drive" of Brussels; and affords, on a fine afternoon in the season, one of the most animated scenes of the town.

Taking the central route, the Rue de la Madeleine and famous Montagne de la Cour we arrive on the Place Royale. Had we turned to the left we should have come face to face with the Cathedral of St. Gudule, or to the right to the new and magnificent Palais de Justice. We can however return to either from the Place Royale. After quitting the old Grand 'Place, the Place Royale strikes one as being of very modern creation and very common place architecture. True there are grand hotels and restaurants—Sir Godfroid de Bouillon is there—the modern

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church also is imposing, and the Comte de Flandre's mansion—you cannot call it a palace—tells one that he meant to have a good house and has got one; it is simply a capital town residence, such as many of our own nobility like to build in the already crowded districts of Belgravia and Kensington.

There are few streets in the city itself which at present commend themselves as residences to English visitors. The Rue Royale is now a street filled with banks, clubs, hotels, shops, &c. Between this and the Boulevard Bischoffsheim (or de l'Observatoire) has sprung up recently a small but entirely new quartier. There are fine middle-class houses in it, and the most popular little theatre is there situated—the Eden—but it is not equal in cheerfulness to other parts as cheap and as easily obtainable. The Boulevard du Regent and the environs of the Park and Palais are most aristocratic houses. The Boulevard de Waterloo is equally pleasant—but such streets as the Rue Thérèsienne and de la Pépinièré, which used formerly to be occupied by English families, have lost for good their faded charms.

Of the large suburb of Ixelles, which lies between St. Gilles on the one side, and St. Josse ten Noode and Schaerbeek on the other. From these suburbs have been carved two important Quartiers—which really constitute the only portion of the town we need trouble much to deal with. These are the Quartiers Leopold and Louise. As Frenchmen flock to the dirty districts of Soho and Leicester Square, Italians to the ancient precincts of Field Lane, and our Jewish brethren to Bloomsbury, so invariably the Briton flies instinctively at Paris to the Champs Elysées—at Brussels right or left of the Porte de Namur. We shall then do well to take this district into consideration. We have done with the interior Boulevards, so now for the outside, first of all the Quartier Leopold. This, when first built, was considered the Belgravia of Brussels, but over its streets, although wide and airy, and its houses comfortable and well-built, a settled spell of dulness reigns, and in many the grass grows fresh and green, a chillness which wraps itself round you like a wet sheet. There is not the healthy

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vitality attached to many parts of it now as there was formerly. However you must judge for yourself. It is near the Park and, you will have plenty of choice here, both of houses and apartments, and you will be in good company in any part of it.

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QUARTIER LEOPOLD.

Taking the streets as they are shewn on the map in this division according to their respective rental value, we may as well divide them into series. They are all fashionable, wide and airy, with well-built houses, and some of the best Belgian and foreign families are to be found within its precincts, and it is consequently a neighbourhood of great distinction. Some parts are too low, when they border on the confines of the outlying suburbs of St. Josse ten Noode and Etterbeek. It must be remembered that the nearer you are to the Park and Boulevards, the higher will be your rent in all probability, and also the more restricted your choice.

FIRST SERIES.

The Rue de Marnix, The Rue des Arts, Avenue de Marnix.—These must be considered the finest and most pleasant situations, with but little choice of furnished habitations.

The Place de l'Industrie, the Place de la Société Civile.—Are two handsome squares well tended with plants and flowers, somewhat after our Russell and Eccleston Squares, but smaller and less dingy in appearance.

SECOND SERIES.

Take now the diverging streets—

The Rue de Luxembourg, and the Place de Luxembourg.—In this noisy street there are some good houses, but the Place is filled with public-houses and cabmen.

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The Rue du Trône, the Rue Belliard, the Rue Montoyer, the Rue de la Loi, aud the Rue Joseph Denx.—Are fine handsome streets, in the former of which is the hotel of the British Minister.

THIRD SERIES.

Of the parallel streets which are all composed of well-built commodious houses, suitable for English families, we must specially enumerate the

Rue du Commerce, Rue de l'Industrie, Rue de la Science, Rue Marie de Bourgogne, Rue d' Arlon, and then the Rue des Eglises and Rue Marie Thérèse.—After which we get lower down and away from the Boulevards, although the Parc Leopold is now a considerable attraction. It was at one time a favourite resort, being the Zoological Gardens, but we have no longer any wild beasts in Brussels.

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IXELLES.

Of Ixelles little more need be said. This large suburb lies higher than any other, but when its right and left wings are taken off—the Quartiers Leopold and Louise—it does not contain such fine streets or such handsome mansions as those fashionable divisions where the nobility and wealthier portion of the Belgians reside, and which are also the head-quarters of the English residents.

The Rue d'Edimbourg, the Rue de l'Esplanade, the Rue de Naples, the Rue de Berlin, the Rue de Dublin, the Rue de Londres, the Rue de Vienne, the Rue Caroly, and the Rue d'Idalie.—All these form a little colony of moderate sized houses (some with gardens) and are in close proximity to the Park and Boulevards, and also to the principal shops and markets. They contain also some fairly furnished and comfortable apartments, moderately priced and highly respectable, which at one time made them much sought after by the English residents.

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THE QUARTIER LOUISE.

The Quartier Louise is considered to commence at the Porte de Namur, and is pierced by the Avenue Louise, a direct road from the Place Louise to the "Bois de la Cambre." This has rapidly become a fashionable locality, owing to its pleasant and healthy position, and the splendid mansions and houses which have been erected in well chosen thoroughfares. It is composed really of the aristocratic portions of Ixelles and St. Gilles. Some streets are still in an unfinished state, but are rapidly approaching completion, they are wide and open, and contain within their precincts the best houses to be found in Brussels.

FIRST SERIES.

The Avenue de la Toison d'Or.—Large handsome houses facing the Boulevards from the Porte de Namur to the Place Louise, from thence to the Porte de Hal. Houses or apartments are not often let furnished here, unless it be towards the lower end, where the numbers of the houses run into three figures.

Avenue Louise.—This is, perhaps, one of the best, if not the best and most cheerful streets to recommend to English visitors, more particularly if they wish to furnish a house and remain a few years; still it is not impossible to find either a furnished house or apartments, and it is at all times, and in all seasons, a pleasant thoroughfare, added to which even the far end is brought into immediate connection with the town, by the capital communication kept up by the tramway service.

The Rue Stephanie.—The entrance to the Chaussée de Charleroi, and the houses which abut on the avenue from the numerous side streets are also equally pleasant residences.

SECOND SERIES.

There are a few streets between the Chaussée d'Ixelles and the Avenue Louise, which have always been favourite resorts for English families, such as the *Rue de Stassart*, the *Rue du Prince Loyal*, *Rue des Drapiers* and the *Rue des Chevaliers*. The *Rue Crespel*, where the new church of

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Mr. Stephens' is being built, also promises to be a fine street, almost too good to be made into lodging houses.

On the other side of the Avenue, we enter into a fine new quarter; at one time it used to be considered going out of the world to live in this direction, but now to all appearance, it is this part that the English Colony most affects, and will, in all probability, eventually adopt as its own.

The Chaussée de Charleroi.—This was always a favourite residence with English people, and it is a fine thoroughfare.

Rue Jourdan, Rue de Livourne, Rue de Florence, Rue Bosquet, Rue Berckmans, Rue St. Bernard, Rue de Suisse, Rue Capouillet, Place Loix, Rue Blanche, Rue Defacqz, Chaussée de Fleurgat, and several others. All these streets offer many inducements to English visitors, to those at least, who eschew the high rents of the Boulevards and Avenues. It is now as easy to get "case," as at one time it was difficult, but they have overbuilt Brussels within the last ten years, and that materially facilitates the finding of apartments by English residents, more especially in this direction. Here you have a healthy district, houses built with all the new modern requirements, and yet which have been sufficiently long enough occupied to get well aired, and to ourselves, it is the quartier *par excellence* of the present and future.

Space will not allow of more than a slight summary of the streets eligible to a visitor from whence to select a residence, but a general idea may be gleaned from the preceeding summary.

The above list of streets does not of course include *all* that are likely to contain houses suitable as residences for English families; at the same time, they may be considered as forming by far the principle portion of the English quarters, and where new comers are more likely to find accommodation, when searching for the same, without the assistance of an agent, or friend who is acquainted with the town

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THE FAUBOURGS.

Slight description and a few observations about Ixelles—St. Gilles—Uccle—Boitsfort—Anderlecht—Cureghen—Molenbech St. Jean—Koelkerberg—Schaerbeek—St. Josse ten Noode—Etterbeek—Ancient Plaine des Manœuvres.

WE can only generalize about the Faubourgs or Suburbs of Brussels, they consist of Ixelles, St. Gilles, Anderlecht, Molenbeck, St. Jean, Laeken, Schaerbeek, St. Josse Ten Noode and Etterbeek. Ixelles—we have already spoken of that portion which adjoins the city, it extends outside the Boulevards from the Porte de Louvain to the Porte Louise, and consequently embraces a large area of the fashionable part of Brussels. The Quartier Leopold filches one side of it, the Quartier Louise the other. The new and not unimportant Quartier of Ten Bosch, is also springing up on its outskirts; so that Ixelles, although it remains a large parish, is no longer scarcely known as such; those who seek a suburban residence will find in the Quartier Ten Bosch, or within the other legitimate boundaries of Ixelles, many comfortable suburban houses, as in the Chaussée de Fleurgat, or in the neighbourhood of the old filled up *Etangs*. St. Gilles is being rapidly built on; and here leaving the Quartier Louise, we have plenty of choice; this leads on to Uccle and to the left of the wood is Boitsfort. In both of these latter are to be found Swiss Chalets and charming villas, not perhaps so resonant of the merry households of our purse proud denizens of Covent Garden and Billingsgate, who with their compeers squat on every available acre within a radius of twelve miles from the city, but for any one who seeks a country cottage, these are pleasant directions to look for one. The lower part of St. Gilles, to the Station du Midi, where it ends, is again an entirely new town, and offers nothing of interest to the intending visitor. Anderlecht, with its sister Cureghen, may also be readily dismissed, unless it be to an intending manufacturer. Forest beyond

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is a pleasant and improving village. We are now at Molenbeek St. Jean with Koekelberg and Jette in the distance. We admire the fine view they afford us when standing on the steps of the Palais de Justice, or where once stood the gate of Schaerbeek, for which we thank them, and need desire no further acquaintance. Laeken, the little village Royalty has done so much to adorn, is well worth a visit, but to hire a cottage there, would be tantamount to taking a bower to which a Bow or Whitechapel omnibus must daily conduct you to and fro. We now come to Schaerbeek—there are some nice streets here, those that lie high must be airy, pleasant and healthy. St. Josse Ten Noode and Etterbeek finish our subject. They have streets good, bad and indifferent. You commence lower down than the Gare du Nord, mount that steep hill by the fine Botanical Gardens, descend again, low down indeed, and then again up on to that high dry and bleak old Champ de Manœuvres, where you gaze on ancient and modern Brussels at your feet. Healthy and bracing it must be; some people have built handsome houses here, and there are others to meet humbler purses. With regard to these Faubourgs of Brussels, we consider that we have done our duty and may be relieved from the task of saying more about them.

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LANGUAGE.

Knowledge of it not indispensable—French—Flemish—Walloon—Belgian pronunciation of French.

AN English tongue carries one in many lands, and there are few Foreign countries where one experiences so little difficulty through not speaking the native language as in Belgium. The Flemish have a great aptitude for acquiring English, and owing to the number of English and American travellers, who annually visit their country, they have also a great inducement in a pecuniary point of view which they are not slow to avail themselves of. One need not therefore be afraid of encountering any serious difficulty in reaching Brussels on that account, and there, one might occasionally almost fancy he was in a British colony, if the number of people who speak English be any criterion.

The language generally spoken by the upper and middle classes is French; but many of the lower orders, more particularly in certain country districts, speak only Flemish and in others Walloon, which is a kind of French *patois*. In some of the real old Flemish towns all classes still adhere pertinaciously to their mother tongue and are by no means partial to French being made the fashionable language. It is, nevertheless, the only one that English visitors need care to acquire, and although Parisians boast of possessing a purer accent, there is now in reality no more difference between the pronunciation of well-educated Belgians and French than there is between two English gentlemen residing in counties lying wide apart. Possibly on the score of volubility the Belgians yield the palm to their Gallic neighbours.

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SEASON.

Duration of the English Season—School Terms—The Belgian Season.

THE resident season opens in September or October, much depending on the state of the weather; a cold or wet autumn sending families into town sooner than otherwise. It commences in fact with the winter and finishes with the spring. The town is, generally speaking, tolerably well-filled by the end of October and begins to thin in May; but the school term dates from the first of September or October and lasts till July. When education is the object for coming to reside in Brussels it is advisable to give children the advantage of the full term, and this may be taken as the average duration of the English season. The Belgian fashionable season is commenced by the opening of the Chambers about the early part of November, but the Court balls inaugurate the winter festivities at Brussels with the New Year.

CLIMATE.

Advice to Invalids—Compared with England—Heat in Summer—Absence of Fogs—Spring - Autumn—Winter.

INVALIDS, or persons particularly anxious respecting the climate in Belgium, would do well to consult a resident medical man. Like on all sandy soils one experiences the heat more in summer; but it is questionable whether there is any great difference between the average state of the atmosphere in England and Belgium; with the exception that the latter is drier, and far less subject to those fogs, which are so frequent in England at certain periods, and which terrify the foreigners into believing any amount of tales about our *spleen*. Brussels in our opinion is so placed as to be favoured with a fine, open, bracing climate, having perhaps a more cheerful ending to autumn and a colder spring than we are accustomed to in the south and west of England. The winters are equally as severe as our own, and when it is desirable to spend that season in a more genial temperature, one must travel considerably farther south than Belgium.

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FURNISHED HOUSES.

Rent dependant on various circumstances—Hired more advantageously in the Summer or early in the Season—Apartments more easily obtainable for short periods than Houses—When preferable to reside at an Hotel or Boarding House—Hiring for the Season or Year—Summer visitors readily accommodated—An advisable Stipulation—Furnished Mansions, but little choice and how best obtained—Situation and rent of the best Houses usually offered—Smaller Houses, rent, description, style, etc.—Kitchens, fireplaces, stoves, cooking stoves—Country Houses.

THIS is one of the most important subjects to be considered, and respecting which one may presume the reader will be most anxious to gather information. The rent of furnished houses and apartments is, of course, naturally dependant in a great measure on the situation, class, and style of house and furniture, the accommodation afforded, time of year, and whether a good or bad season. When there has been a great influx of strangers and the season is somewhat advanced, the choice becomes more restricted, and the rents proportionately increased, so long as fresh families continue to arrive; it is, indeed, sometimes difficult to obtain a suitably furnished house or apartments when very late in the season.

To ensure the best choice and the most advantageous conditions if you have a large family, it is a good plan to hire your house or apartments during the summer months —July or August—rent to commence on entry, which will be expected by the first day of October. The town is at that time nearly empty and there is consequently a greater number vacant; the chances of the season are also still doubtful and lodging-house keepers are the more disposed to accept an offer. It is difficult to obtain a house or large apartments at the commencement of the season for a

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shorter period than six or eight months, and the rent is proportionately diminished when taken for a longer time, more particularly so as regards a furnished house. It is not, perhaps, absolutely impossible to take an apartment by the month or for two or three months; at the same time the choice will be very restricted, and the rent most probably charged accordingly; when an apartment is only required for a few weeks during the winter months it is sometimes better to make arrangements at one of the hotels or boarding houses.

At some of the former, where the proprietors depend more particularly on summer visitors, they are in the habit of making arrangements with families at low rates for the winter months, and in one or two, wines and other extras, which really make hotels expensive, are allowed to be provided by the visitor or a small sum is charged on the cork. Boarding houses do not inspire much confidence as a rule, but you may get well accommodated in one or two of them at Brussels.

In taking a house it really makes but little difference whether you engage for the season only, or for twelve months, for you will have to pay nearly the same rent in either case, as they do not reckon upon being able to re-let in the summer. The numerous visitors who then pass through Brussels are nearly all travellers, and make only a short stay, generally at the hotels; if they purpose staying a few weeks, and wish to avoid the bustle and noise of an hotel, it is very easy to obtain an apartment by the month or even by the week; you are not by any means obliged to bind yourself in the spring or summer for any length of time, as there is always a number of apartments vacant, the proprietors of which are only too happy to let on your own terms and for which no reasonable offers are refused. An apartment is not let so proportionately cheap for twelve months as a house, owing to the summer visitors being occasionally glad of an apartment when they would not be troubled with a house.

If you have taken a house in the summer and think it possible that you may wish to remain on during the winter, it is as well to have the option of so doing, and stipulate on the conditions before the season is too far

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advanced; also in taking at the beginning of the season it is as well to have the privilege accorded of remaining on during the spring and summer months at a *reduced* rental, as unforeseen circumstances may arise to induce you to remain longer than anticipated; this proviso may not be necessary and its importance is more particularly a question for yourself, but its insertion prevents others from taking your house over your head, and by so doing oblige you to leave whether convenient or not; it would, of course, depend whether you had a particularly desirable residence. In making this stipulation, you would not obtain an equivalent reduction in the rent for the latter months, as you would otherwise do in taking the place for twelve months on entering.

Of first-class houses, equal to the requirements of a very large family and attendants, there is not at the best of times, much choice, and they are always greatly in request during the winter season for families of other nations, and also for those Belgian representatives to Parliament and visitors from the country, who do not happen to have town houses. The Russians, Dutch, and others who come here to reside, are also serious competitors, as they are always ready to pay a high rent and require a good house, but they seldom arrive so early in the season as English families, and take no previous steps to secure houses beforehand.

It is next to impossible to obtain for a short time only one of the large and handsome houses with *porte-cochères*, of which you see so many, and which are so much admired, with their magnificent marble entrance halls, gardens, and stables in the rear. The rents of these are very high, averaging from five to ten thousand francs a year unfurnished, and in this state must be taken for a term of three years at least. We have known them to be occasionally rented by English and American families, who pay from three to five hundred pounds a year for them furnished. To obtain one at a short notice cannot be relied on, and the plan usually adopted by the Ambassadors or families who require one of the best houses, is to take it unfurnished, and either buy or hire the furniture from an upholsterer, who is accustomed to the work, and will

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furnish a honse in any style of comfort and luxury. At the same time, although this superior class of house is not always to be met with, you may, nevertheless, procure one equally as well adapted to the requirements and conveniences of a large family by *applying not too late in the season*, and if less pretentious in style, such a one can be rented at considerably less money.

From five to eight thousand francs per annum an excellent house is obtainable, well furnished, situated in the best and most fashionable quarters of the town, and equal to the position of any English gentleman. When taken for three years the other plan of hiring the furniture is, perhaps, the best to adopt: but if only required for the season or by the year, there is a sufficient choice to content one for that period; but it is particularly necessary to bear in mind to make your choice before the general rush takes place. Engage the house in the summer, or as early in the season as possible, and at the same time agree on the date you are to take possession or to commence paying the rent. This plan can also be adopted in taking smaller houses and apartments.

The extreme rents for furnished houses have been given above, and for those situated on the principal Boulevards or in the most pleasant and fashionable thoroughfares; there are others equally as commodious and convenient in less favoured streets, yet quite as respectable, and of course at proportionately lower rents.

At the time of the Franco-German War, which occasioned the influx of so many French families, houses being scarce, rents went up to an exorbitant price, and drove away the ordinary English visitors for some time. Many landlords still continue to make extravagant demands, which should not be acceeded to. It is a well-known fact that rents of unfurnished houses have diminished of late more than thirty per cent., and as the persons who are disposed to let out furniture on hire are now much more numerous, and so many houses are vacant from overbuilding, we consider that we are again entitled to fall back on the normal rents, but we shall recur again to this subject.

The rents of smaller, good-class houses range from four to

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six thousand francs per annum. They may occasionally be obtained for less, perhaps from some exceptionable cause or other, which induces the occupier to leave, or being situated at a more inconvenient distance from schools and markets. This is the average rent and kind of house most generally to be met with at Brussels. A good house may be obtained at three hundred francs per month, and a bad one is very frequently let at four hundred. The only plan is to see and examine well all that are vacant at the time, and take the best you can find at the rent you purpose paying. There is a number of this class of houses on hand until the end of October, by which time they are mostly taken. They are situated in the upper part of the town, and are, generally speaking, comfortably furnished—not luxuriously—but what is more important, they are scrupulously clean and neat.

With regard to the size of the houses, they are composed of from three to four rooms on each storey, have three stories and servants' attics above, with kitchen and cellars underground. The rooms are of good size, airy, and well-built, stone entrance hall, marble chimney pieces and prettily decorated interiors. Open grates are in the principal rooms as a rule, and closed stoves in the bed-rooms. The stoves are all meant to consume coal and not wood, as was the case some few years back. The kitchens possess every convenience adapted to the requirements of Belgian servants, but English ones would be apt to complain, after leaving some of their comfortable halls; the others are not accustomed to so much consideration, and have no great expectations with respect to either their bed or sitting rooms; the latter are very indifferent, being built just under bare slated roofs, are very cold in winter and the reverse in summer.

An English cook would at first feel herself greatly at a loss how to manage with the insignificant looking stove (or cuisinière), standing out from and only slightly connected with the chimney; but it is astonishing the number of dishes a qualified cook can readily turn out with one, keeping half-a-dozen saucepans boiling at a time and two ovens full of baked dishes, with a handful of fire in a little round pan in the centre, the diameter of

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which is about equal to that of an ordinary sized plate. They have no kitchen ranges and a roasted joint is an impossibility; all kinds of meat being either stewed, baked, or boiled. This manner of baking is nearly equal to our own roasting, the construction of the stove rendering it far superior to the English oven for that purpose. All the firing is made economically available, and the closed stove, when not cracked, or imperfectly fitted, will burn up any kind of coal.

Of very superior furnished houses in the environs there is not much choice, and the best way to obtain one is to advertise for it. It is possible at times to meet with a furnished Chateau and grounds, but owing to the little demand there is for this style of house, the agent has generally to advertise for them when required. Away from the chief central towns they may be obtained at very reasonable rents; although it must be borne in mind that even in the immediate vicinity of Brussels one would experience great difficulty in inducing masters to come for a few hours only in the day, and then at a much higher remuneration.

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FURNISHED APARTMENTS.

Various classes—Rent how influenced—Families with children—Hiring through an agent—Enquiries made from a distance—Rent a great consideration with a small income—Average rent—Size—Apartments cheaper than small Houses—Cheaper localities—Situation—Season—Seeking for Apartments—Flats.

THIS class of habitation is of such an extended nature, and subject to modifications depending upon so many circumstances, that anything like a classification, according to prices and accommodation, is attended with no little difficulty.

The rents are influenced more particularly by the locality of the houses;—whether first or second floor, if at a house of business, the number of rooms required, and the size of the family, and with young children you may be charged a little more in proportion. In the last case it would be advisable to take one where the furniture is plain and sound; otherwise, if the same be showy and fragile, a continual surveillance of the children will be necessary. Covers should also be provided for the chairs, and other pieces of furniture liable to be marked or stained, which are intended for their use or exposed in any way to their treatment, so as to enable your agent to resist any heavy record of damages being entered against you at the end of your term. Parents naturally believe their own children to be unexceptionably good, well trained and incapable of mischief; but there are few apartments, after being occupied by a family with children, which do not show vestiges of the untiring energy, ingenuity and restless activity of young England; this may be the early indications of some vigorous intellect, but it lengthens the bill of damages and adds considerably to the cost of the apartments. Parents may be very strict, but cannot have their children always under their own eyes, and they are naturally very apt to take advantage of being left with servants; it is therefore far preferable, with children, to

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choose apartments where cleanliness is preferred to show, and, at the same time, make them take all the useless ornaments quite away. An extra room, either for study or play, is also highly advantageous.

As stated elsewhere, the time of taking the apartments also makes a considerable difference; if very late in the season, when it happens to be a very full one, you must expect to be obliged to pay a little more than the average rent. It is probably the best plan to make your own calculations. Tell an agent exactly the accommodation you require, at what time, and the sort of house you would prefer, state the rent you are prepared to give, and put it to him, whether you can be accommodated there or no. This manner of proceeding clears away all difficulties both for yourself and the agent. When he receives a letter from a distance, asking the price of apartments at Brussels, the position and habits of the family being quite unknown to him, it is naturally impossible for him to meet their views, unless by accident. He may certainly fix on a rent at hap-hazard, and it might be so low, that although the price might tempt you, the style of the apartment would be quite beneath your notice and wishes; or he might, possibly, choose one too high, so as to prevent your coming altogether. The rent is, of course, a great guide, but it must be subject to your income, or to your accustomed style of living.

One cannot do better than to again refer to the subject, as to whether a family on a very small income can live at Brussels. The question of rent naturally forms the most important consideration; that once disposed of, the rest of your income may be portioned as you will. An apartment taken at a sum proportionate to one's income, which can be readily spared, disposes, in our opinion, of the question; nothing but extravagance or bad management need deter such families from living in Belgium. If the rents in the capital be too high, Bruges and other towns offer cheaper residences, but the rent must be the guide or criterion. It has been stated by a very high authority (the late Sir Robert Peel) that no man ought to exceed one-sixth of his income in rent; this is a good calculation for a person with an average one, or, even if the bare walls

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only be meant, but if you require a furnished tenement, you may possibly have to hire of some one, who looks to screw out his entire income out of your one-sixth. If this problem can be worked out satisfactorily, we do not doubt the possibility of such families being able to reside here within their means. In this we cannot assist you half so much as you may yourself, by not being too fanciful in your choice.

It may as well be remarked here, that they are sure to meet with disappointment, who with a young family, and limited income, accustomed to live in the cheapest possible style, and caring nothing for the ordinary inducements which attract families to Brussels, are led there solely by motives of economy. Some few parts of Germany, the South of France, or smaller towns in Belgium, are much more likely to be suitable localities. There are some, who come positively expecting a furnished house at ten shillings a week! an instance of the kind once came under our notice, and the person who required it, coming from one of the largest manufacturing towns in the North, gravely assured us that, from information he had received, such were to be procured at Brussels! To avoid usless trouble and expense, they may be assured that Brussels would not afford them a convenient resting place.

The average price of apartments is from one hundred and fifty to three hundred francs per month. From three hundred francs per month the remarks under the heading of "Furnished Houses" will be more applicable to the subject, whether it be a house or apartment that is required; as there is, in reality, very little difference at that price, the only advantage being that furnished apartments offer a greater choice than furnished houses. These apartments contain from six to ten rooms, affording accommodation little short of a house, and in most cases, it is only a question which you prefer, but in descending the scale from three hundred francs per month, one may put aside the possibility of obtaining a house, unless by chance, or some drawback being attached.

It does not follow that, because a house, which

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unfurnished is worth two thousand francs per annum, lets furnished at from three thousand five hundred to four thousand francs per annum; another, a little way in the suburbs, worth only five hundred francs, is to be obtained furnished at one thousand francs per annum. The interest of the money invested in the furniture of a small house, might produce a proportionate return at those rents; but no one seems inclined to furnish such, or are willing to let, on the same average profit. The apartment at fifty francs per month, would only be calculated for one or two persons, the same from one hundred to one hundred and fifty would be composed of about four or five rooms in a respectable quiet street, in a good locality.

All the houses and apartments here treated of, belong to respectable people, and are situated in the Upper Town, in healthy localities and are clean, neat and comfortably furnished.

Any one unacquainted with the town would probably experience some little difficulty in immediately obtaining suitable accommodation for a family at the lowest rents stated above, and occasionally House Agents shirk the trouble of finding apartments of this class, if they do not happen to have any on their lists at the time, but a little assistance on their part, will enable him to be comfortably housed without delay. The remarks made in another part respecting the season of the year, are equally applicable to this style of apartment, and they, who wish to be lodged very economically, must not mind giving themselves a little more trouble in searching about than is usually imposed on others who are ready to pay more. Opportunities also frequently occur, when an eligible apartment is offered on easy terms, and even below its value, but one must be prepared to take things as they find them, and not be too exacting as to the style of furnitue and other little matters, when the rent is fixed at the minimum price here given. It is not impossible, although at times a little difficult, to find such at a moment's notice. It may be mentioned that apartments very seldom run in flats here in the Upper Town, as in Paris and other continental cities, and the few such obtainable, are generally speaking higher rented than the others. But since the new Boule-

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vards have been constructed and, consequently since the appearance of our first edition, we have seen some capital flats built with every convenience on the new boulevards near the Bourse and Post Office. But there is one thing to be borne in mind—there you are in the midst of Belgians—Belgian tradespeople, Belgian servants, Belgian customs, manners and language. You are away from your compatriots, and you will reside in busy thoroughfares, and over large *magasins*, or shops, or warehouses. You will be as completely shut off from the genteel British colony, as much as though you were exploring the Congo. After you had paid your rent, they would trouble nought about you, the concierge would take in your letters, and would tell your visitors that if they mounted up to such a floor and knocked at such and such a door they would learn whether monsieur or madame was at home. They would resent any domestic enquiries concerning the state of your health, or pocket it as an affront on their dignity and beneath their notice. They are in charge of the house, to keep out intruders, to open and lock up. On the ground floor is a handsome shop, on the first some rich rentiers who have made money as shopkeepers or speculators, and prefer to spend the money near their daily haunts. On the top floors may be students, sempstresses or what-not, as wide apart from you in their daily life and vocations, and of you would care as little, as the poaching Whitechapel bird catcher when travelling by the same Sunday morning train, does of the clergyman who is to preach to a select congregation in a suburban town, in order to reach which he avails himself of the same cosmopolitan conveyance.

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UNFURNISHED HOUSES.

Length of Leases—Notice to Quit—Short Periods.

THESE are not easily obtained for a less period than three years. The leases run generally for three, six, or nine years, at both the landlord's and tenant's option to renounce by giving three or six months' notice before the expiration of either term, so that they are in reality only three years' leases. Still, tenants very seldom receive notice to quit, nor are their rents often raised before the expiration of the nine years, and even then not always to the full value, as a very general disinclination exists among Belgian landlords to change their tenants. Strangers are not very readily accepted as tenants for unfurnished houses, unless properly introduced to the landlord by a resident householder, or the landlord has previously been in the habit of letting to English families. It is then possible that he may let for a shorter period, or agree to accept a fine on leaving before the expiration of the lease; but it is a proviso that cannot by any means be depended on, and it is not here intended to hold out any possibility of your being able to obtain such as an inducement. Owing to the number of new houses which have been built within the last ten or twelve years, it is no longer so difficult to obtain an unfurnished house in any direction as it was in former days. The choice is now so abundant in all the various streets that substantially well-built houses may be obtained on an average at £60 per annum in the best Quartiers; houses intended to contain a rather large family and well appointed with regard to the fixtures and fittings. The further you go into the suburbs, the cheaper they, of course, become. In fact, there exists at present no difficulty in finding here a good unfurnished house in any part of Brussels or its suburbs at reasonable rents, and not overburdened with taxes. There is very little more to be said on this subject, for should you decide on taking an unfurnished house, instructions respecting the lease will be found under that heading, and the advantages of furnishing yourself will be also fully entered into in another part.

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UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS, AND FURNISHING THE SAME.

Hiring the Furniture for an Apartment—Character of the House—Value of the Apartment—Cheap Apartments—Seldom necessary to adopt this plan—Buying the Furniture.

SHOULD a particularly eligible unfurnished apartment be vacant, you can arrange to furnish the same by hiring the furniture of an upholsterer. When taken by the year this may prove a good plan to adopt, but a great deal depends on the arrangement you make with him and whom you employ, and it is better to treat with a person of some capital. It is, undoubtedly, much cheaper to hire furniture for a large apartment than for a small house. We have known a sufficient quantity to accommodate a large family obtained for less than forty pounds per annum. When the upholsterer, who depends more particularly on this branch of his trade, has a large surplus stock on hand he is only too glad to get it placed out, and a good bargain may then be made.

In our last edition we recommended a family (not one or two persons only) requiring a low-priced apartment from one hundred to one hundred-and-fifty francs, to take the same unfurnished and hire the furniture. We must at the present day qualify this advice. So many new houses have since been constructed that there is no longer such a scarcity of small furnished apartments, and consequently they are more easily obtainable. Yet the number of unfurnished apartments has also considerably increased. They are now, in fact, to be met with in all directions. We can therefore only advise a family on small means to take either a furnished apartment, such as they find ready to hand, and of which there is now no lack, or to take an unfurnished one and furnish it themselves; and now if

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they think proper to avail themselves of the new system introduced lately in England, and which we find is being followed here, they had better adopt the system of hiring and buying at the same time—that is if they are likely to stay any length of time. Our opinion is that with due circumspection they would scarcely pay more per month to become owners of the furniture than if they simply hired the same. Considering the great choice of unfurnished apartments now to be let, and most of them at very low rents, this is at any rate worth the consideration of families with yearly incomes, and without an abundance of ready money.

In this class of apartment it requires more caution with regard to the character of the people of whom you take, if you become a yearly tenant; and very frequently a quarter's notice from the expiration of a quarterly term will be required. The furniture must also be taken for at least six months if hired—and of course on the hiring and buying system combined—the three years' system as we call it in England, with regard to pianos. It is a question for yourself to insert a proviso in your agreement that in the event of your wishing to change your apartment you should have the privilege to remove the furniture.

The unfurnished apartment being suitable for Belgians, who, when taking the same, would give as much rent as yourself—the landlord will not feel particularly bound to trouble much about you, as a regular furnished lodging-house keeper would, who makes a profit on your stay, and has, in consequence, a greater inducement to attend to your wishes. It is the same in taking an unfurnished house; it has a certain value in the market, little influenced by a good or bad season, and when you have concluded your bargain the proprietor has probably no more to do with you (quarter days excepted) than if he lived a hundred miles away. Neither he nor the furniture broker will ever trouble you but on rent day, after the rooms are completed; consequently you have only to see and get as much as you can for the money in the first instance, and also that it is properly and comfortably furnished before paying the rent, or even before entering into possession if you can so arrange. Agree to have it

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done within a fixed time, and keep them at work until it is. With regard to the landlord of an apartment, your principal care is to assure yourself of his respectability, and also as to any other lodgers he may have or be likely to take into his house.

Considering the occasionally restricted choice of furnished apartments there is to be met with at four or five pounds per month, the plan of hiring the furniture just mentioned is a very good one to adopt if an eligible apartment be vacant unfurnished, as you avoid paying the profit which is otherwise attached to them furnished, and which is seldom satisfied at so low a rate. You must, nevertheless, choose your opportunity and be able to wait a few days, and have either a good agent or friend who is living in the town to assist you, as it is not advisable to undertake it yourself. For the better class of apartments this system of furnishing is unnecessary, as in all probability you will be able to obtain what you require without the least difficulty, unless you have a particular one in view which happens to be unfurnished, and it is possible to have them arranged in any style of luxury and comfort according to your taste.

But if you purpose to remain any length of time, you must look into the advisability of purchasing your furniture, either out and out or on the three years' system. We only make use of this term as it is so well known, but here you would probably have to pay down one quarter of its value and the rest would be extended over a period of from one to two years only. In purchasing for cash be sure and be on your guard not to fall into the hands of the "mock auction" people.

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HIRING, BUYING, AND BRINGING FURNITURE OVER FROM ENGLAND.

How families may furnish, and when advisable—Attendant advantages—Hiring recommended in furnishing Mansions—Preferable to buy the furniture for a second-class House—Private Mansions—Average Rents—Rent of Furniture—Value of same—Upholsterer's Profits—On large Establishments—On small—On piece Lettings—Comparison between buying and hiring—The middle-class House—Unfurnished Houses—Rents—Hiring the Furniture — Buying the Furniture — Re-letting — Hiring a Furnished House—Bringing over the furniture from England—Chance opportunities for buying houses of Furniture.

A FAMILY purposing to remain at least three years, may advantageously adopt the plan of taking an empty house and furnishing it themselves, by either buying or hiring the furniture at Brussels, or bringing their own over from England, instead of incurring the expense of warehousing the same there, and this, when practicable, we advise beyond all others.

In taking an unfurnished house the rent will generally be found about one-half what is charged for a furnished one, and although no considerable saving may be effected by adopting one of these three courses, those who do so have at any rate the advantage of choosing their own style of house and furniture, and are more likely to obtain a house in accordance with their own pre-conceived tastes. The principal portion of the furniture when hired can be selected at the warehouse if you go to a repository of sufficient importance; and it is much more advantageous to do so, as a better supply is obtained and you are able to make in every respect a more profitable bargain.

We are disposed to think that it pays much better to buy the furniture for a small second-class house than for a

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large one, and our reasons for thinking so may be deduced from the calculations which follow. There are but few English visitors who would think of buying the furniture for a first-class mansion at Brussels, unless they intend to remain some years or are actuated by other motives than effecting a saving in so doing.

Although there is not much choice of first-class furnished mansions at Brussels, and nothing is more difficult to obtain at times; and if wanted when there happens to be none vacant which are suitable, the most available plan is to take one unfurnished and to hire the furniture of one of the large upholsterers who is accustomed to the task. Make a contract with him to furnish you the same completely at so much per annum, indicate beforehand the style of furniture you require, and bind him down to do it within a given time—a few days are sufficient if the work is kept in hand. Three years are given as the shortest time for which you may depend on being able to take an unfurnished house, though an agent may possibly procure one for you by the year or even for the season; when the plan above mentioned is practicable, you will by adopting it, probably obtain a house more adapted to your wishes, and it is nearly always followed by foreign ministers and others requiring a really first-class residence.

Brussels contains many magnificently furnished mansions, but they belong to a nobility and bourgeoisie, as ancient and as proud of their homes as our own, and who seldom ever think of letting them. They would look on the intrusion of English servants as little less than an irruption of Goths and Vandals; for it may be often observed that servants very seldom take the same interest in or care of a house that is only hired for a time as they will of their master's own property.

The rent of a house would depend upon selection, it being influenced by size, situation, and style. A large hotel or mansion might be valued as high as ten thousand francs per annum, but we will take a lower average to illustrate our proposition; say one which may be rented at from three to six thousand per annum (£120 to £240). This superior class of residence in a fashionable part of the town, where fine large rooms require

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suitable furniture, may be fitted up at a proportionately moderate rate. The actual rent of the furniture would be about three thousand francs (£120) per annum. We here give a sum which would procure sound and handsome furniture, the owner of which will constantly make any little change required, and after a time thoroughly renovate or replace it at his own expense. Many families have been known to adopt this plan with satisfaction. Presuming that the actual cost price of manufacture of the furniture to be at least twelve thousand five hundred francs (£500), but which would cost you £700, about twenty-five per cent. per annum is consequently paid for its use (the upholsterers calculate on a gross return of about thirty per cent. per annum). Three years' wear and tear will probably reduce its value thirty per cent., or ten per cent. per annum, which will leave only fifteen per cent. profit to the owner, subject to a deduction of two or three per cent. for labour, as all the expenses attending its fixture and removals are included in the rent for the same. But the broker reaps a greater profit on re-letting this same furniture, for although it has depreciated in value nearly one-third, he by no means reduces the cost of hire in the same ratio. By allowing ten per cent. per annum for its annual depreciation, what remains of that furniture at the end of ten years is a clear gain to him, in addition to a handsome return for his capital. All the substantial pieces will last much longer; it is only the carpets, curtains and such like articles that are quite worn out, and some little expense has been incurred in replacing them from time to time, but nothing of importance.

The furniture that has served in a first-class house for three years, with additions equal to the amount allowed for depreciation, will be sufficient to furnish two middle-class houses, and will now realise for hire four thousand francs (£160) per annum, or more than thirty per cent. The furniture is usually changed in this manner—after serving in Class No. 1, or the high-rented house, it is renovated and removed to No. 2, thence to No. 3, and in this manner descends the scale, so that every article is made available whilst a stick or thread remains. The letting of single articles by the month also well repays the

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upholsterer, these being charged at a rate but little below a twelve months' purchase. An easy chair worth forty francs will be charged three francs per month for the hire, a bed eight to twelve francs, and the charge for other articles is in like proportion.

We will now consider the purchasing of the furniture instead of hiring it. The ordinary buyer would not be able to purchase the same quantity, which we valued to the upholsterer at five hundred pounds, for less than seven hundred or more. Supposing he should wish to sell at the end of two years, he would be a considerable loser, as its service would not adequately compensate him for the difference between the sum realised by the sale and that given for it. Taking three years' use (and it is scarcely worth while to entertain the question for a shorter period,) and the furniture to have cost seven hundred pounds; and at the end of that time to realise four hundred pounds. A good sale would scarcely fetch more, and a bad one considerable less: much would depend upon the dilapidations the furniture had suffered. On a favourable estimate, the cost of furnishing a house in this manner would be—allowing five per cent. interest for capital—three hundred and five pounds against three hundred and twenty, the cost which has been shown of hiring from the upholsterer.

Thus, although the furniture broker makes a good profit by letting, one is not equally benefitted in buying. In hiring, the extent of the liabilities is known, in purchasing the risk and expenses of a sale have to be incurred. In the first case there is no trouble but to make the best possible arrangement; in the second, one certainly feels a little more at home, inasmuch as the furniture is one's own and there is no fear of dilapidations; but these with moderate care on the part of the servants, and hiring from a good upholsterer, would not be highly rated. Much more may be said on both sides of this question, and the above calculations may be subject to some little modifications; but sufficient has been given to shew that in furnishing a high-priced house for a short term of years there is a greater advantage in hiring than in purchasing.

We will now consider the house of a moderate rental,

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the one most in request among those who come to reside any time; and to represent the question as clearly as possible we will discuss it under the following heads:—firstly, hiring the furniture; secondly, buying the furniture; thirdly, hiring a furnished house; fourthly, bringing over your own furniture. We have in view a family, which comes abroad for economy or educational purposes; the family which is content to forego, to a certain extent, the pleasures of high society, not caring for such during the few years they pass on the continent, in order to recuperate their exchequer, to educate their children, or to await any contingency; the family which is satisfied with a house in a quiet respectable street, with plain but comfortable furniture.

Before entering into these questions, we must add a few words respecting the unfurnished houses which affect three out of the four cases to be considered. We now take the rental of houses, varying from forty to eighty pounds per annum, and at these rents they contain from nine to twelve rooms, with light underground kitchens, offices, etc.; the difference in rental depending principally on the style of the house, neighbourhood and proximity to the town:—these questions considerably affect the value of a house without diminishing its respectability in the least. Now with regard to furnishing, there is—

Firstly—Hiring the furniture. The hire of furniture for the style of house mentioned above, would be about two thousand francs (£80) per annum, and its value about three times that amount, so that in three years' time the hire nearly amounts to the original value of the furniture. Our opinion is decidedly against the adoption of this plan. We do not profess to know by what calculations the *fourniseurs* of furniture, with whom we have had relations, form their estimates; but as there is nothing to be saved, there is but little inducement to incur the trouble it entails.

Secondly—Buying the furniture. The cost of the furniture for the house in question will be about two hundred and fifty pounds; it may be furnished sufficiently well at this sum and will then be on a par with the last named, and as there shown, three years' residence nearly reim-

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burses the capital expended, and what the sale produces at the end of your term will be net profit; or, if to remain only two years, the third by re-letting would even swell the creditor side of the balance. Two years is the shortest period worth considering, as the difference between buying and selling would not warrant the adoption of this plan for any less time, and a tolerable certainty of being able to remain three years, if necessity renders it more advisible.

In re-letting it is best to do so when the winter season commences—September or October—the possibility of letting houses by the year is very uncertain in the summer months.

It may be here remarked, that an unfurnished house taken in a good position at eighty pounds per annum, is more likely to let well and to pay better, that a house of forty pounds, but the furniture placed therein ought also of course to be somewhat superior. In the latter, expensive furniture would be superfluous, and as low-rented houses when furnished are scarce, a tenant at a fair remuneration would probably be found without difficulty for the remainder of the lease you might wish to relinquish.

Thirdly—Hiring a furnished house. In taking a furnished house, the season visitor follows the most general course, and in most cases it will prove the best for such who do not remain longer. There is frequently a difficulty in obtaining an unfurnished house for a short term, and although the agent may take all trouble off your hands respecting this and the fitting it up, the former will prove the cheaper and less troublesome plan to adopt. The other methods need only be considered when families come intending to reside some length of time, or when it happens that a furnished house cannot be obtained to one's mind. It may be mentioned, that occasionally a house which has been furnished expressly for a previous tenant is to let, and rather than remove the furniture, the upholsterer will incline to favourable terms in treating with a new one. For families who intend to make a long stay at Brussels, it may be a question as to whether they will not prefer to undertake the furnishing of their homes,

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rather than contribute to the profit of lodging house keepers. There is very little chance or even choice of taking a furnished house for less than £140 per annum, in a good position, and in this case, as before stated, a considerable portion of the value of the furniture must be paid in rent, if you remain three years. Admitting the convenience of upholsterers to the majority of English visitors, we believe there are some who may find our present remarks of service, and as we have already given the particulars respecting furnished houses in another part, we will entertain the last question.

Fourthly—Bringing over your own furniture. Furniture to fill a good sized house can be brought over from England at a cost of about forty or fifty pounds, including packing, and every expense attending the same; and by taking a good unfurnished house and fitting it up with your own property, one has a residence more comfortably furnished than when it is hired, at half the cost; and the heavy expenses of warehousing are avoided, unless the same be let or sold before leaving. Of course the propriety of moving very valuable furniture must be considered, but if packed by men accustomed to the work, there is no more risk of its becoming damaged by the transit to Brussels, than there would be attending its removal to any part of England. Presuming the house selected to be at £80 to £100 per annum, in a good situation, the addition of this furniture would double its value, or in other words, by furnishing yourself, the rent to be paid is about one half the amount which must be given in order to obtain a similar house furnished.

This style of furnished house can also be let at that rate, as such have necessarily the preference over the regular lodging-houses, as it will be furnished more in accordance with English tastes, and in a superior style; that is, if your furniture be worth the transport.

There are also frequent opportunities for buying a house of furniture from a family leaving, and who have adopted the plan of furnishing themselves, with the intention of disposing of the same on leaving; the option of continuing on the same lease may also present itself, and should not be lost sight of. In this

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case, one may occasionally buy at an advantage, and get back nearly every shilling again under the auctioneer's hammer, but it is a chance opportunity, and not to be depended on by any means.

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RENT PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

For Unfurnished Houses—Deposit—Interest—For Furnished Houses—Apartments—Furniture.

IN taking an Unfurnished House, three months' rent is required in advance, and a like amount, to serve as security for the due fulfilment of the conditions of the lease, is also frequently exacted; this latter sum serves as payment for the last three months of the lease. It has been hitherto the custom of the country to require this security alike of Belgian and foreign tenants, but by some landlords it is now regarded as a matter of indifference, and interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum may be fairly demanded, and will be also generally allowed on the amount of the deposit exacted. It is also usual to pay three months' rent in advance for a Furnished House, taken by the year. The rent of Apartments is paid monthly, and also in advance. When taken by the quarter, quarterly payments in advance may be required, but with furnished ones this is more frequently a question for private arrangement. Hired furniture is also paid in advance, either monthly or quarterly according to agreement. This is the general rule of the country, and the receipt is invariably presented the day the rent becomes due.

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HOUSES TO BE AVOIDED.

Antecedents—More important in taking Apartments than Houses.

BY all means avoid taking an apartment in any house where the landlord—or still worse the landlady—is held in bad repute, or has become notorious for misunderstandings, to use a mild term, with previous tenants. It is unfortunately necessary for old residents to place a mark against a few such houses at Brussels, and a timely caution cannot be too strongly urged to dissuade you from passing a portion of your existence, however short, in the same house with one of them. A bad landlord is, in fact, a greater nuisance than nasty drains and smoky chimneys. When you take the whole house all you have to do is to look sharply after your inventory and lease; see that the former is taken carefully and do not allow him to bind you down to any unusual conditions in the latter. When occupying an apartment only, the case is very different, as you are then brought more in contact with the proprietor. Should any difficulties occur they tend to drive away visitors with an unpleasant recollection of this fair city and its inhabitants. It is scarcely necessary to observe that it rests with yourself to discover whether, at any time, the caution proceeds from an interested or unscrupulous person.

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GAS.—WATER.—DRAINS.—CHIMNEYS.

Gas not always found in private houses—Expense in bringing it in—Oil Lamps—Town, rain, and spring Water—Drains—Closets—Servants to be cautioned—Water pipes during Frosts—Chimneys—Attested *ramoneurs* or sweepers.

GAS is not laid on in all the private houses, and when brought in, there is an expense incurred for opening up the street; the Gas Company not undertaking here, as in England, to bring it into the house free of expense. Oil and petroleum lamps are in general use, and they frequently prove a fertile cause of contention; see, therefore, that you start with them in a clean state and in perfect order, and let them be entrusted to one of the servants who understands keeping them so.

There is, generally speaking, a plentiful supply of water in every house of two sorts—town water *(eau de la ville)* and rain water *(eau de puits)*, and there is in many of the older houses a pump supplied by a fresh-water spring. It is necessary to see that the town water is laid on, or endeavour to have it done if you are likely to remain any length of time; but it is now generally laid on.

The drains form a most important question; there are some blocks of houses, even in the otherwise best situations, where they are bad, and this is a point which must not be left to the landlords themselves to enlighten you on, as they are generally far too polite and considerate to disparage their own property. The closets are now mostly made at Brussels after the English system, *à l' Anglaise*, with a plentify supply of water, but it is well to assure yourself of their cleanliness and salubrity, for foreigners are not all very particular about their condition. It is highly necessary to charge your own servants against carelessness in throwing floor cloths, brushes, &c., down

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the pipes and thereby causing an obstruction in the drains, they being very easily blocked up; and as the proprietor will insist on them being left in proper order, it is equally necessary for you to assure yourself of their being in the same condition on entering. Again, with regard to the water pipes, great care must be taken that they do not burst during the winter frosts; have them covered if exposed, and be sure to have the cock turned off at the main every night at that season; and during the day water from every tap should be in frequent requisition.

Chimneys should be swept twice a year by sworn *ramoneurs* who will give a receipt, which will have to be produced in case of fire.

——:o:——

PLATE AND LINEN.

Not usually given—Where hired—Charge—Quality—Linen advantageously purchased in Belgium—Knives.

THESE are not usually found in furnished houses or apartments, unless the attendance is also provided. They may be hired at the furniture warehouses, a sufficient supply of which for a house will be charged about thirty francs per month. It is therefore more economical to bring your own with you if practicable. The plate they lend is very common, and the linen has generally stood the test of a good many previous lettings. Sheets may be hired at the rate of two francs per month per pair. Linen may be advantageously purchased in Belgium; the quality is good, and a pair of sheets at twenty francs are far superior to those obtainable at an equivalent sum in England. Knives are not included with the plate, but may be purchased very reasonably at the English cutlery warehouses at Brussels.

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CHINA, CROCKERY, GLASS, AND KITCHEN UTENSILS.

Supplies to be looked after—State of Kitchen utensils.

THE china, crockery, and glass should be looked over to see that you have a sufficient supply of each. The kitchen utensils may also have been left in a bad state by the last tenant. Reject all that are not likely to last your term. We may also refer you to our remarks on taking inventories respecting these items.

——:o:——

KITCHEN STOVE.

State of Kitchen Stove—Common Faults.

THE state of the kitchen stove should be ascertained, for if out of order the cook will not keep her temper under control. The fire-pan and lid are both very apt to fly when overheated, and then it is next to impossible to cook properly. It is as well to mention here that when sufficient heat is not obtained, the fault nearly always lies with the stove, and not with the chimney; the pipe very soon gets choked up with soot, but is very easily emptied and should not be neglected. As we are now speaking about the kitchen, it is as well to observe that it is absolutely necessary for the servants to put out the rubbish early in the morning, so that the dust cart may remove it; and in snowy weather the pavement must be diligently swept for the comfort of yourselves and neighbours, and to avoid a fine by the police authorities.

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BEDDING.

Description—Stains.

THE French spring mattresses, as they are styled, are in general use with woollen beds and bolsters, and feather pillows; the only objection that can be made is the size of the bedsteads, as these are much smaller than the English ones. In many houses the French system of two single ones being drawn up by the side of each other is adopted. The bedding is scrupulously clean and neat as a rule, but care must be taken to note in the inventory the slightest stain on the same.

——:o:——

BLANKETS.

Number allowed—Counterpanes—State received in and remitted.

SEE that you have a sufficient supply of these. The custom is to allow three to each bed, but they are apt to neglect to give the full number for the servants' accommodation. It is particularly necessary to stipulate for the usual number being furnished for the winter when taking a house or apartment in the summer. Counterpanes are, of course, also provided. You receive all clean on entering, and must leave them in the same state on giving up possession.

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CURTAINS.

For both seasons—Old Inventories recall sundries to mind.

IF you require curtains adapted for both seasons it is as well to mention it before entering. You should bear all these little things in mind, and stipulate for them beforehand. By so doing you get better supplied, and it saves any trouble arising afterwards respecting the same. In most houses they have an inventory which can be looked over, and that will enable you to judge what is wanting for your own requirements.

——:o:——

PIANOFORTES.

Where hired—Charges.

THESE are not furnished, and must be hired at a manufacturer's; the rent varies from twelve to twenty-five francs per month, according to the standing of the maker and the value of the instrument. The rent includes the tuning of it once a month, but two francs are charged by some for porterage when sent in, the owner paying the expense attending its removal. Fifteen francs per month is a fair average rent to pay for a very good piano.

——:o:——

HOUSEHOLD SUNDRIES.

Mats, brushes, etc.—Hire of baths—Kitchen knives, forks, and spoons.

MATS, brushes, baths, dusters, and such like articles, do not form a portion of the furniture comprised in letting a house. Mats are given in apartments, and in some good houses baths are also to be found; the latter may be hired at the rate of three francs per month, but it is cheaper to buy them if you intend remaining here any time.

Kitchen knives, forks and spoons, are given, but not fit for the use of the family.

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LEASES AND AGREEMENTS.

Great attention to be observed before signing—Professional advice—Short hirings—Memorandums—Government stamp—Taxes—House to be shown at convenient hours—Inventory—"Etat des lieux"—Underletting—All agreements to be written—Legal Phraseology—Length of time required in giving Notice to quit—"L'usage des Lieux" or local customs—Manner of giving notice to quit—Powers of the "Juge de Paix"—"Bon Père de Famille" clause—The "Réparations Locatives"—Insuring against fire—"Risque Locative" Possession not to exceed the term—No changes to be made without landlord's sanction—Additional Laws affecting tenancy—Explanation of terms.

IT is scarcely called for to impress upon you the necessity of paying great attention to the wording of any lease or agreement to which you may be required to affix your signature, and if not a proficient in the language, it is better to have the opinion of a qualified lawyer or agent in the matter. Simply taking an apartment for a few months does not necessitate an elaborate agreement, and the landlord who exacts it is not generally speaking one of the best you can have relations with. As a rule, a memorandum as to the time and rent agreed on is all that is asked or required, any special conditions being of course also noted. If written in English it is equally binding, and the shorter it is the better. If plate, linen, or service be included it should be mentioned; and when additional articles are to be given, a list of the same should be added to insure your obtaining them. There must be two copies signed by both parties, each taking one. We are not anticipating that the production of such a simple agreement as this, would ever be likely to be required in a court of law, as in that case it must be on stamped paper (a sheet with a forty-five centime stamp would be large enough), in the event of its being necessary to produce it there; it may be stamped afterwards by the payment of a small fine.

In letting a furnished house, the landlord will very probably require you to sign a more formal lease, and you

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must, in that case see that the wording of it does not bind you to more than agreed on. Refer also to what we have said about the contributions or taxes, as that is an important question. Also that the house for the latter period of your tenancy is only to be shown at convenient hours. Two hours a day, and three days a week for one month is amply sufficient to meet the convenience of all. No notice is required on either side when the house is taken for a fixed term, unless stipulated beforehand. Do not accept by the lease the furniture as being in perfect order; it must be expressly stated that an inventory will be taken of the same, and you will then be bound by that only respecting its condition.

Again, in taking an unfurnished house, should its condition be in any way doubtful, stipulate that you accept it only as described by the *Etat des lieux*, which must be made; in fact, be very particular about the wording of the lease you accept for an unfurnished house; and although one is seldom let for less than three years, it is as well to endeavour to obtain the permission to underlet or give up possession at the expiration of one or two years by paying an indemnity. It is much better to make these stipulations beforehand when possible, because in the event of any unforseen occurrence causing your departure earlier than anticipated, a grasping landlord learning that you are obliged to leave before the termination of your lease, has it in his power and may possibly enforce a far heavier fine than you might have agreed on before signing. He may even persist in your leaving a guarantee for the whole amount of the rent for which you are liable for the remainder of your term, or he may prevent the sale or removal of your furniture, and insist on its remaining in the house as security for the due payment of each successive quarter's rent, acting as if for a contracted debt, which of course it in reality is. Or you may be disposed to travel further for a time, and in this case, a tenant is generally to be found ready to give you the full value for a comfortably furnished house with no serious inconveniences or drawbacks attached to it. This is a subject which has been already fully treated of.

The tenant is usually bound not to underlet an un-

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furnished house without the landlord's permission, and care must be taken respecting this clause in order to save litigation. In some leases it is expressly stated that apartments are not to be let off. Where the entire house only is stipulated, we have heard that this is sometimes overidden by leaving a servant in the house, or by reserving a room, but we doubt the legality of such a course, and under any circumstances it is more in accordance with our English ideas to have a thorough understanding with your landlord and to obtain his written consent to underletting. Should no mention be made in your lease about it, the question need not be raised, as you can then, of course, please yourself about doing so

Unfurnished houses are not generally let here as in England through an agent, but the services of a respectable resident will materially facilitate your arrangements with the landlord in the event of your being a perfect stranger, and he may also consent to the house being underlet through the recommendation of an agent; or when he reserves to himself the approval of a sub-tenant, it is a condition intended to protect himself against having the house occupied by a bad tenant, and not with the view of preventing your underletting altogether. It is a clause which most landlords will insist on retaining, and in the event of your sub-letting the house unfurnished, you or your agent will then of course remain responsible for the due performance of the conditions of the lease, even supposing that another tenant be accepted in your stead; but arrange if possible to have the option of quitting the house at any time, by giving three months' notice and a payment of a reasonable fine, say an additional quarter's rent.

Before closing this subject, it will be advantageous to bring a few more general laws affecting it before your notice. Our observations may not, in case of contestation (nor do they pretend to), enable you to dispense with legal advice; but our practical view of the question, guided by some experience, urges us to impress on every one the necessity of a good written understanding on all points with the landlord from the commencement. The legal

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phraseology employed in this country is at all times simple enough to be readily mastered; and although law costs are a tithe of our own, disputes which must be settled by an appeal to the tribunal entail a great deal of trouble, and possibly inconvenience and annoyance, more especially to strangers.

In giving notice to quit a house where no express stipulations exist as to time, the customs of the district must be followed—*L'usage des lieux*. The lease of furniture hired for a house or apartment is understood to be the same as for the house or apartment, and is governed by the local customs.

A furnished apartment is considered as hired by the year, quarter, month or day, when the rent is fixed at so much per annum, quarter, month or day; and failing such stipulation local customs determine the same.

If at the expiration of a written lease, the tenant remains, and is left in possession, he becomes subject to the laws applicable to tenancies where no written agreement exists.

The *usage des lieux*, or local customs which determine so many questions between landlords and tenants, masters and servants, in the absence of written agreements are here in a very vague and unsatisfactory state. It seldom happens that any two lawyers will agree in identical counsel; and judges have not unfrequently given various decisions. Then again, they differ in the several districts, and one of the most doubtful questions relates to the necessary period required in giving notice to quit a tenement. With regard to Brussels, we can only advise our interested readers to act on the following terms, which apply equally to furnished and unfurnished houses and apartments:—

For a house, three months; for an apartment, when the rent is paid quarterly, six weeks; or paid monthly, one month. A small apartment of two rooms, fifteen days. A room taken by the week or day requiring an equivalent notice. In all instances, the expiration of the notice must take place the day another payment would otherwise become due—payments being always in advance—and must also be given the day previous as it were—for example, if your term commences on the fifteenth of the

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month, send your notice to quit on the fourteenth, as a full calendar month's notice is necessary, and the day of executing the same is not reckoned.

In giving notice to leave, the character of your landlord must have some consideration in influencing your method of doing so. A verbal notice might be denied, and witnesses not admitted, but a simple written one will answer all required purposes. A memorandum stating your intentions to give up possession on a certain date, with his acceptance of the same duly signed, and this being done in duplicate will be sufficient; otherwise you will be obliged in order to render a notice legal to have it done by a *huissier*. This form costs some six or seven francs, and is a proceeding very seldom resorted to. It is also occasionally acknowledged on the receipt for the last term of rent, and we consider this a very convenient method for the tenant to propose, as he holds the proof. It might be the contrary with the landlord if he wished to get rid of a tenant and had no document to shew that such an agreement had taken place. If the tenant receives an irregular notice to quit, or it is given at an illegal period, he must protest against it at once, or it will be assumed that he accepted the same.

In case of dispute, a magistrate's order will enable the landlord to put out the tenant's goods, and the same will oblige him from preventing a tenant to quit, whose time has legally expired, unless he holds an execution on his goods for rent due.

The *Juge de Paix* disposes of all cases respecting these subjects, without liberty of appeal when the sum in dispute does not exceed one hundred francs, and up to two hundred francs, appeal being allowed, but beyond that amount it is necessary to go before a higher tribunal.

The tenant is usually bound to occupy his house as a *bon père de famille* would his own; that is, not allow anything to take place which would injure the property to the prejudice of a succeeding occupier, and more especially not to do anything by which its letting value would be depreciated.

The obligation of acting as a *bon père de famille*

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necessitates bringing under the notice of the proprietor any damage caused to the property by third persons, and in default, renders himself liable for the same.

The *réparations locatives* imply as a general principle the repairing any damage caused by the tenant without being at all times the result of his use. In taking a furnished house he will seldom be called on to concern himself respecting repairs, unless the landlord happens to be at the same time the owner of the house; and we must advise a temporary tenant at all times to refuse to have anything to do with them, further than to make good any damages which may be the result of his occupancy. In taking an unfurnished house for a term of years, the question becomes of more importance to the landlord, and the incoming tenant should then exact that every part of the house is in good repair, or insist on an *état des lieux* being taken. We may as well state a few items which then fall to the tenant's charge, always allowing that the damage occasioned by what is styled here the *force majeure* is at the cost of the proprietor; for instance, windows broken by a hail storm or by frost would fall to the charge of the latter person, unless the shutters were not closed.

Réparations locatives include—hearths, chimney plates, chimney ornaments and tablettes in stone, marble or wood: walls within one metre from the ground, pavement in the interior, cornishes, window sashes (unless rotted through dampness), panes of glass, doors, locks and fastenings, sweeping of chimneys, balconies, grass plats, fruit trees, stairs, pictures or decorations, sculptures, flower pots, garden seats, vases, unless injured by the weather. All these are implied in the above term, and if damaged or destroyed, it rests with the tenant to shew that the same was occasioned by accident, out of his power to prevent, otherwise he is liable for them.

The obligation which the tenant contracts to give up possession *en bon état*, necessitates in his interest an *état des lieux* being taken, in the case of an unfurnished house, and an inventory of the furniture when it relates to a furnished one; as the presumption inferred is, that when he enters he naturally requires the place he takes to be in proper order, and this being so, he is obliged to leave the

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house or furniture in the state he found it, and the necessity may arise to prove the same.

Unless otherwise agreed on, the expense of this proceeding rests with the tenant.

If, at the expiration of the lease, the tenant cannot produce the inventory, he must pay for all damages, properly estimated; but should the document be withheld by a third party, the proprietor is subject to await his efforts to procure its production, and when so found, the landlord is bound to accept it. When payment has been already made, no ulterior reclamation can be made, the transaction being then considered definitive

The landlord is bound to keep in good order the walls, roofs, floors, outer doors and windows, wells and drains.

In case a house requires reparations, which cannot be delayed until the end of the lease, the tenant must submit to the inconvenience occasioned thereby, but if they take a longer period than forty days, he can claim an indemnity.

If these reparations render the house uninhabitable, the tenant may claim to have the lease cancelled.

The lease is not broken by the death of either the landlord or tenant; neither does the sale of the house put an end to the same.

The landlord of a house has the power to insist that sufficient furniture is put in to answer for the amount of rent, unless security be given.

The tenant is liable for any damage which happens during his tenancy, unless he can prove that the fault is not his own.

He is also responsible for all the members of his household, and for the sub-tenants in the event of underletting.

In the case of fire, the responsibilty of the tenant is limited to the building, and does not apply to the furniture further than his fault or imprudence can be proved by the proprietor; and with regard to the building, he is not answerable when he can shew that the fire was the result of faulty construction, a *force majeure* or communicated from the neighbourhood.

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If there are several tenants, all are responsible in an equal degree, unless they can prove in whose apartment the fire commenced, when that occupier would take the onus; or they must otherwise shew that it did not commence in their apartment.

In insuring against fire, it is advisable also for the occupier to do so for the *risque locative*, as in the event of a fire breaking out in his house, unless he can prove that the cause exonerates himself from blame, the presumption is, that it was occasioned by his fault, and he is consequently responsible towards the assurance company, not only for the house he rents, but also for his neighbours', if destroyed or damaged; for although both landlords may be insured and can claim their compensation from the company, the latter in return has grounds for action against the occupier of the house where the fire originated; thus, although he might have insured his own goods, the balance would possibly be on the wrong side. We draw attention to this, as we believe the continental laws on the subject differ from our own very considerably.

Possession must be given up immediately on the expiration of a lease, in order to save any question of continuance, or have an understanding on the point, with your landlord.

No change or disposition of the building must be made by the tenant without the landlord's consent be obtained, otherwise he may be called on to restore the same to its original position, and at the same time forfeit the materials employed in the alteration.

A house taken on a three, six or nine years' lease, cannot be given up at the expiration of the first two periods without the usual notice to quit.

If it has been agreed on, that in case of sale or death the lease is broken, immediate possession can only be obtained by paying an indemnity to the tenant equal in amount to the rent of the term which local customs determine shall be given to quit.

The purchaser of a house occupied without a lease is required to give three months' notice to quit to the tenant, if he wishes to have possession.

Continuing to occupy a house at Brussels after the ex-

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piration of the lease, infers the same to be for a quarter; and for apartments, six weeks.

When a dispute arises respecting the amount of rent verbally agreed to be paid after possession is taken, and no receipt exists, the landlord's version is accepted on oath, unless the tenant prefers an expert, or sworn valuer's estimate to be given; in which case, should his valuation exceed the tenant's, the expenses attending this proceeding are at the latter's charge.

It is a native custom to pay a small sum as a gage in taking an apartment; but this is seldom required of English people.

Given as a simple promise, this may be forfeited, or the landlord can also, by returning double the amount given, refuse the proposition to rent; but if paid on account, the bargain cannot be nullified, except in certain localities, where it may be done within twenty-four hours on the above conditions.

Should the landlord refuse to receive the keys at the expiration of a tenancy, they must be presented to him by a *huissier*. On the other side, the landlord can take the keys if he agrees as to the expiration of the lease, and payment of rent, by signifying to this officer that he reserves to himself the exercise of his rights in suing for damages for reparations or losses.

The following terms employed in a lease are translated into English for the use of our readers who may be unaccustomed to them:—

Loyer—Rent; *Propriétaire—Bailleur—Locateur*—Landlord; *Locataire—Preneur*—Tenant; *Bail—Bail à loyer*—Lease; *Baux*—Leases.

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FIRE INSURANCE.

Fires of seldom occurrence—Guard against them—Rates charged.

FIRES in Belgium are happily of very unfrequent occurrence, and it is not common for the temporary occupiers of furnished residences to insure on their own account; still, although your landlord may have insured his property, if a fire happens during your tenancy, the insurance company can recover (in the event of its taking place through your own family's negligence) the full amount from you that they themselves are called on to pay.

The rates charged are much lower than in England, and if you take a house on a three years' lease it is better to be on the safe side; and one must use every precaution to prevent any such accident, as the police authorities may occasion you no little trouble and expense if a fire originates in your house, and the fault can be proved to be your own.

We will here append, as the matter is of importance, the actual wording of the Belgian code, applicable to sub-tenants :—

"ASSURANCE DU RISQUE DES LOCATAIRES.—Art: 1733, du Code civil, le locataire répond de l' incendie a moins qu 'il ne prouve que l'incendi est arrivé par cas fortuit ou force majeure, ou par vice de construction, ou que le feu a été communiqué par une maison voisine.

Art: 1734, S'il y a plusieurs locataires tous sont ;solidairement responsables de l' incendie, à moins qu 'ils ne prouvent que l' incendie a commencé dans l' habitation de l' un d' eux, auquel cas, celui là seul en est tenu ou que quelques ne prouvent que l' incendie n' a pu commencer chez eux, auquel cas, ceux là n 'en sont pas tenus."

"ASSURANCES DU RECOURS DES VOISINS.—Art: 1382, du code civil Tout fait quelconque de l'homme qui cause à autrui un dommage oblige celui par la faute de qui il est arrivé à le réparer.

Art: 1383, Chacun est responsable du dommage qu 'il a causé, non seulement par son fait, mais encore par sa négligence ou par son imprudence."

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INVENTORIES.

The necessity of having one—Compounding the damages—Verify certain items—Responsibility of the agent—Items particularized—Inventories to be taken by practical persons—Duplicate copies.

IN taking a house or apartments for any length of time, an inventory of the furniture therein ought always to be made for the satisfaction of both parties, otherwise you are assumed to have received everything in proper order, which very seldoms happens to be the case; but unless it can be taken with care, and by some one who is thoroughly conversant with his task and not slurred over, it is much better not taken at all.

Some few Belgian landlords prefer not making any claim for damages rather than incur the risk of obtaining a doubtful reputation which, in the event of a dispute arising respecting the same, is very likely to be the case whether justly merited or not. In dealing with such persons the best plan is to allow them to propose a round sum, and then if you do not consider that honesty or interest have prompted them to be fair and liberal with you, call in your own agent to value the damages with the landlord or his representative. At the same time there exist others who expect to reap a profit even on the breakages and dilapidations, and *with them you cannot possibly be too wary*. See that the person charged either to take or retake your inventory be accustomed to the work, and if you are not present at the time, it is as well for yourself or a trustworthy servant to verify a few items afterwards, more particularly the bedding, crockery, and glass. If you employ an agent this responsibility rests with him, and the question resolves itself into one of capability; and bear in mind that it is yourself who will have to pay for any negligence or incapacity on his part.

It is almost superfluous, to particularize any objects which require especial examination, as all damages cannot be

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too minutely and carefully noted throughout; but fragile articles such as crockery and glass require inspecting piece by piece. Every stain on the bedding should be noted, also the keys that are wanting and locks that are out of order, cracked window panes, state of the drains, closets, walls, and paint, marble slabs, stained or burnt carpets and hearth rugs, condition of the lamps, curtains, blinds, cooking utensils, and stoves; the fire pan and cover of the cooking stove are very apt to fly, and cannot be repaired for less than about fifteen francs. See also that the furniture is sound and that it has not been previously broken and glued together again or scratched. Pass under rigid examination every article that is liable and likely to be stained, torn, broken, or in any way damaged. These items form only a portion of the task, but perhaps they may assist your memory in the execution of the same. Many a good housekeeper is better qualified to take an inventory than an old professional hand; and it is one of those tasks of which it can scarcely be said that too many cooks spoil the dish, and there is a positive advantage in verifying it before signing, unless you have implicit confidence in your agent.

It should not be delegated to a lawyer, as however well he may be versed in the law on the subject it is quite out of his practice, and legal acumen will scarcely replace an accustomed eye.

Ten minutes with the person occupied in noting down the defects will suffice to assure you of his capability.

These observations are rendered necessary by the fact that taking possession of a furnished house is one thing and giving it up another; and you cannot be more particular about anything (next to your lease) than the inventory; and by so doing you will be more likely to avoid any subsequent unpleasantness or overcharge. There should be two copies taken and signed, of which the landlord and tenant each hold one.

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CERTIFICATE OF DOMICILE.

A certificate of Domicile is necessary in order to obtain baggage from Custom House — Where to apply — Passports — Where deposed—Reclaim them at once—Other proofs—Registration of Family particulars—Inscription at Hotels—Fines for neglect.

WHEN you have engaged your house or apartments, the next step will be to apply for a *certificat de domicile*, without which you cannot obtain your luggage or furniture from the *entrepôt*, as the custom-house is here named. There is a little formality attending this at the police-court, which is very simple when understood, but rather tiresome when you cannot speak the language, and have no one at hand to tell you how to proceed. In order to obtain this certificate you must apply at the *Maison Communale*, or police-court of the commune you intend to inhabit; there the first thing required is your passport, and although you have been told in England that no passport is necessary, you will in reality find the possession of one will save a great deal of trouble, as the *Commissaire* will tell you at once *that it is necessary;* this they take possession of to dispose at either the Hotel de Ville or at the Foreign Office, until you leave the country or claim the same to travel elsewhere, when they will return it on application. It is better to request that it may be returned as soon as possible, you will then get it in the course of a few days by calling at the bureau.

If you have no passport, they will expect your card, and probably ask whether you have papers or letters of any description about you in order to prove your identity. It is advisable to be accompanied by your agent or a friend who is known to them, as unless you have a passport they will hesitate to give you a certificate of domicile, and some delay in obtaining your luggage will be the result. Great importance is attached by the authorities to this

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form—and justly so—as it prevents anyone who might be acquainted with the number and partial contents of your portmanteaus from obtaining fraudulent possession of them. Your identity being established, they will proceed to register what will appear to you very trivial particulars—your age, condition of life, where born, and last residence, and if married, when, where, and the maiden-name of your wife; about your father and mother, your wife's father and mother, and the maiden-name of the ladies; your children's names, ages, and where born, &c.

We mention these particulars so that you may be prepared with the necessary notes of the same, and be able to get through the formalities quickly, as it would be rather difficult for some persons to carry all their family genealogy at their fingers' end. It may appear very trivial but there is no alternative, the rules of the continental police in this matter are doubtless to an Englishman incomprehensible, but it is the custom here in every commune, and the *commissaire* acts only according to directions prescribed to him by the laws of the country. This is not necessary when you are staying at an hotel, the only form then exacted being your inscription in the police book, which is presented on your arrival there; but the moment you become a resident in a private house you must register yourself and family at the *bureau de police*, and if this is not done within a few days, you are liable to be summoned before the *Juge de Paix*, who has the power to inflict a fine for the neglect; the landlord is equally responsible with yourself for this being duly attended to.

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CUSTOM HOUSE FORMALITIES.

Circumlocution—Certificate of Domicile necessary—Faro—Entrepôt—Charges for carriage—Notice of arrival of Goods—Exemption from duties accorded to New Comers—Requisition — Period allowed—Value of this Concession—Previous use—Machinery—Wines and Excise articles—Office hours—Formalities—Examination—Fees—Cartage.

IN order to pass your luggage, furniture, plate, linen, &c., through the custom-house, the following observations, the result of some years' experience will, we trust, enable you to save time, trouble, and unnecessary expense; and to a stranger just arriving in the country the circumlocution offices of a Belgian custom-house are the most bewildering; the checks and counter-checks, the signatures, and counter-signatures, from say office No. 11 to No. 19, back again to No. 11, then to half-a-dozen others from one office to another *(ad infinitum)*; then to your police division for a certificate of domicile, if you have neglected to procure one (and that in all probability is at the other end of the town) unless, perhaps, we have saved you that journey, otherwise when you come back, ten chances to one but that the office is closed, as government officials here, as elsewhere, make short days. If you are already furnished with your certificate of domicile, you may take comfort for you can then show that you are in reality the "Simon Pure"—the very man who owns the baggage, and of that fact they will not feel satisfied without the signed authority of one of their own *Commissaires de Police* which the certificate gives them.

To return to the office No. 19 again—this time with the *certificat de domicile*, from thence to No. 20, then perhaps Mons. le Chef of this department, or that pigeon-hole apparatus has just slipped out to take his lunch, a light

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and frugal repast with a glass of faro—the magic faro; oh! ye gentlemen of Somerset House revelling at mid-day in the Strand on Oysters and Guinness' foaming XX, when ye next visit the *tir national*, just try this beloved national beverage which fills your Belgian brothers' hearts with delight and his mouth with water; what is Scotch or Bitter to him in comparison? Your first draught will probably cause a spasmodic contraction of certain facial muscles, with a relative expansion of others, and an impression that they have made a mistake, and drawn from the vinegar cask instead of the beer barrel. That bright coloured, transparent acid liquor is, nevertheless, veritable faro. It is rare for an Englishman to venture on a second draught, as the first amply satisfies his curiosity, if not his thirst, and he leaves, having gained some slight addition to whatever previous knowledge he may have possessed of the luxuries of the country. Finding then, to your unmitigated disgust, Mons. le Chef not yet returned, you conclude that you have had enough of it for one day and you leave a second charge for the morrow, and you may deem yourself lucky if you see your own property out of their legal clutches the next following. Monsieur, the Chef of Chefs, who sits upstairs and whose important signature is necessary to redeem your property, requires a day's deliberation before according it. One cannot but conclude that all their counter-checking and counter-signing shows a great want of confidence in their own employés. However, we have passed through it so often as to be really assured that patience is undoubtedly the most sustaining virtue under custom-house tribulations. So in order to save you as much of this harassing work as possible, and that at a time perhaps when there is a fidgetty outcry at home for linen, and all the numerous *et ceteras* which always accompany you in your peregrinations; first of all register yourself at the police court, as previously directed in order to obtain a certificate of domicile. It should be observed in passing, that this registration is only necessary in the event of your being about to reside in the country and not if you happen to be at an hotel or on a visit; whatever luggage or other articles you may receive through the

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custom-house, in that case may be cleared without the certificate and will be subject to the usual duties, if liable, without the privilege of exemption which is accorded to new residents (as will be shortly explained). Then proceed early in the morning to the *entrepôt* at the bottom of the town, it is by the canal, a little below the Antwerp Station, or more properly speaking, the Station du Nord, possibly the one that you have arrived at. It saves trouble to place yourself in a respectable agent's hands to assist you, otherwise proceed to the building on the left-hand, and in the first office on the right-hand side in this suite of building, you have to pay the amount stated on the notice received from the post-office, which is sent you on the arrival of the goods; this amount includes all expenses attending its transit to Brussels; this and fifty centimes for the declaration, finishes your duties in that office; you must then send in a requisition on stamped paper (an ordinary forty-five centime stamp which may be obtained at one of the stamp offices) to the Chef des Douanes, detailing the full number of packages, describing the same, and giving a general inventory of their contents, requesting also a *permit d' entrée.* This is returned the next day on application, according the same free of duties. This permission is only granted within six weeks of your arrival, after which period your goods are subjected to the ordinary duties, the tariff of which is appended to this book. It is, therefore, advisable to have all your goods sent in one lot, and it is then cleared without extra trouble. This formality, although troublesome (and should be delegated to an agent who understands it) is really an important concession, as you may bring a house of furniture if you think proper, carriages, plate, linen, &c., all free of duty in place of paying about ten per cent. on the value. It must all have been in previous use, and the plate ought to be marked; wines or excise articles are not exempt. We have known sewing machines pass, but any kind of machinery is liable to be charged. The request for the permission must be sent in before twelve o'clock in the day, to insure its return the day following; you will have to encounter a few other formalities at the different offices—all in the same

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building. The goods will be slightly scanned by the examiners, and the best plan is to give them the keys unreservedly, and on the payment of a few francs, as fees for the examination, about twenty-five centimes per package and a few centimes extra for the sortie—these being fixed charges and not extorted by the porter—your luggage is then at your own disposal, but must be removed before three o'clock in the afternoon, otherwise the gates are closed until the next day. You will find plenty of carriers close by who will cart them at once to your house at a moderate rate, the amount of which it is as well to stipulate on beforehand.

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CONTRIBUTIONS, OR TAXES.

What taxes are due from the tenant—"Contribution personelle" payable by the landlord—Tho term "personelle" misleading to strangers—Foncier Tax—The "Governante" is exempt—Notices—When and where to pay—Days of grace—The Belgium system of collecting taxes.

IN taking a furnished house or apartments you have nothing to do with the Contributions or Taxes, except in respect to your servants, horses and dogs; and take especial care that your agreement does not bind you to pay tho *contribution personelle.* This term has frequently misled strangers, as they imagine that it simply implies their own personal liabilities such as the above, whereas it includes all the taxes—window, hearth, furniture, etc., with the exception of the *foncier* or state ground rent; all of which are payable by your landlord, unless you accept the responsibility by your lease or agreement, specifying the same by the term *personelle,* which word is in reality only employed to distinguish between the proprietor's and principal tenant's

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responsibilities; as instead of taxing one's income, the plan of levying an impost on the furniture, doors, windows, hearths, and chimneys is adopted.

It is most important that you should bear this in mind in accepting any lease or agreement which has been drawn up by your landlord, because some are apt to take an unjust advantage of the ambiguity of the term. Several instances have fallen under our notice where it has been done; and once when an Englishman was the landlord, the tenant, a lady, left the country and refused payment for a time, considering an advantage had been taken of her ignorance of the term and of the language in which the lease was worded (a verbal assurance having been given that only the customary taxes were charged); but this English *gentleman* obtained a warrant for her arrest, and she having to appear as witness in an important trial (*) at Brussels, where her evidence probably saved the life of the prisoner; it was necessary that this affair should be settled, since it might not have been fully understood at the moment and would have produced an unfavourable impression on the jury.

If you take an unfurnished house you are, of course, charged the *personelle;* the proximate amount of which may be learned from either the landlord or outgoing tenant, and the collector will assist you in filling the necessary form. You must see that the landlord does not stipulate for you to pay the *foncier.*

This tax differs from the leasehold ground rent in England as it is levied by the state. It is not charged on newly built houses until they have stood seven years. A memorandum is added in the Appendix, shewing the amount charged for servants, horses, and dogs; these being the taxes for which you are liable, as the temporary occupier of a furnished house or apartment in the absence of any express stipulation respecting them. One superior servant, if considered as a *governante*, is exempt. The term *governante* may be construed as implying a paid managing companion, but has more or less latitude, according to the elasticity of one's conscience.

* The trial of Risk-Alla, for the murder of his step-son at Antwerp.

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The custom of collecting the taxes is as follows—a form is left at your residence the first week in January, which must be filled up, signed, and returned when called for. Another form is also left for your landlord, which concerns him only unless you have agreed to pay the *personelle*. You have only to give the number of your servants, and horses if you have any; the other questions there asked do not refer to your position as occupier of a furnished house or apartment. A separate notice paper is brought in for dogs, the taxes on which are also given in the Taxes Appendix.

The *personelle* taxes for the whole year are due from the principal tenant of the house on the first day of January. The *foncier* is due from the proprietor, and in addition to the state *foncier* tax a second one is charged by the town authorities; we merely mention this because the notice papers are all left at the house, and you had better send them to your landlord in the event of his not occupying any portion of the house; and the sub-tenant or lodger at that date is also responsible for the year's taxes for which he himself is liable. A few days after your return is made, an account is sent of the amount to be paid, which must be appealed against if incorrect in the manner and within the time there stated. The amount can be paid as soon as you think proper at the office of the collector of the district, which is also open between the hours of ten and three during the last four days of the week; if not paid by the end of the first quarter a notice is served for which you are charged ten centimes, and by it are invited to do so within five days from that date; half the sum may be paid if you think proper, and the second half in the autumn or they may be discharged by twelve monthly instalments. Should you neglect to pay this sum within two or three weeks after receiving this notice (as they do not generally stand on the five days' grace only) you will then have another—or if you are known they will perhaps politely intimate, through the post without cost, that by promptly paying the same into the hands of the collector you will avoid unnecessary expenses—this second notice is couched in much stronger language, condemning you to all sorts of pains and

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penalties if you do not pay up within the next five days, for this an additional forty centimes is booked to your account; now if you are still neglectful in attending to them, although the five days' grace may be possibly exceeded by as many weeks, the state *huissier* or bailiff will not fail to call and serve you with a citation to appear at court in order to hear that your goods and chattels will be seized and sold by the state or city to liquidate the amount due to it for the contributions. The cost of this missive is about six or seven francs, but by calling at the office next morning with the money, you will be only actually mulcted for the cost of the stamp on the summons —some two or three francs. We do not suppose you will give them this opportunity of putting a few francs extra on your contributions, but must remark that this system of tax gathering appears far superior to our own, and prevents any ill feeling towards that unpopular public functionary—the tax gatherer; more especially, as in England, when he happens to be an unpaid official, who is compelled to undertake the task, or still worse, when he receives a percentage for his pains.

The *contribution foncière* is due to the government from the proprietor, which if neglected to be paid by him may be demanded from the tenant, who again has the power to deduct it from the next payment of rent, or to sue his landlord for the same.

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WINES AND SPIRITS.

Estimation of French Wines in Belgium—Average superior quality of the Wines supplied here—Spirits—Liqueurs.

WINE is a necessity in Belgium—to all above the working classes, and to the latter it is not such an unattainable luxury as many in England in a better position than they have so long been accustomed to regard it. French wines are the most popular—Claret, Burgundy, and Champagne. A great saving is effected in this item and at the same time one secures a far superior article; as it is an unquestionable fact, that although some of the best produce is shipped to England, an immense quantity of inferior also finds its way there; an important reason why French wines are not in more general use there—and then to render them acceptable a mistaken notice exists that they must be "loaded" in order to meet the English taste.

Spirits are still lightly taxed, although the Excise dues have been recently increased very considerably; but the native distilleries send out strong, and we may add raw acrid compounds not all suited to the English palate, with the exception of cordials or liqueurs in the fabrication of which they are renowned, and a considerable export trade is carried on in them.

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CLOTHING.

Dearer here than in England—Superiority of the English manufactured goods—Competition less marked—The Ladies' "toilettes"—Tailors' workmanship.

CLOTHING is considered to be dearer here than in England, for although Belgian manufacturers have of late made rapid strides, they are still far behind their English competitors in the quality, style, and variety of their produce in this department, more especially for the cheaper articles, consequently there is a considerable quantity imported, although subject to a heavy *ad valorem* duty.

The greater demand which exists for English manufactured goods, their market being diffused through every quarter of the globe; the superiority of English machinery, skilled labour, and large capital generally employed, have hitherto allowed most of their textile products to bear a favourable comparison with those of Belgium, even with the lower rate of wages and the protective duties of the latter country, against which they have to contend. Again, competition in the retail trade is not nearly so marked here which has no inconsiderable effect in keeping up prices.

Judging from their *toilettes*, a much higher standard of taste is displayed by the ladies' *confectioners* in making up than by the gentlemen's tailors; the former successfully following the Parisian fashions, whereas the style of an English gentleman's attire is quite as marked, it being seldom equalled and never surpassed abroad. We do not, of course, allude to the get-up of those gents *en voyage*, who immediately they quit their native soil, think it necessary to doff the sober habiliments there in vogue for the imaginary indispensables of a tourist; confirming our foreign friends in their preconceived opinions that we are a very *drôle* people, the greatness of whose nation and name suffices to substitute astonishment for ridicule.

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WASHING.

Reasonable charges in Belgium—Per dozen—Bleaching—A criterion of Charges by the piece.

A CONSIDERABLE saving is effected here in this item, but it is as well to make an arrangement with the laundress and to require a fixed scale of charges to be given for all articles. One franc per dozen will include the greater portion sent to her, and such as cannot be comprised at that rate will be counted at a reasonable extra charge, which ought to be found much lower than in English towns. The linen is returned beautifully white, but too frequently at the cost of its texture, owing to the destructive process of bleaching employed here, and which is occasionally carried too far. The following prices are given to us by a respectable laundress, who is employed by many English families, as being the ordinary charges made for such articles when washed by the piece, which may serve as some criterion:—

	fr.	c.
Robes	1	0
Chemises d'homme	0	25
Idem de nuit plisseé	0	20
Idem de femme	0	25
Cols	0	5
Mouchoir	0	5
Jupon	0	30
Gilet blanc d'homme	0	30
Chemisette	0	10
Manche	0	10
Manchette	0	10
Nappe	0	20
Serviette	0	6
Essuie-mains	0	5
Bas	0	6
Draps de lits	0	25
Taie d'oreiller	0	6
Pantalon	0	15
Cols des dames	0	10
Gilet de flanelle	0	15
Tablier	0	8
Rideaux grandê courte-pointe et couvertures de laine	1	0

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At one franc per dozen, the laundress will undertake the washing and ironing, &c. of all your linen with the exception of gentlemen's shirts, robes, jupons, and the more expensive articles.

At 1fr. 25c. she will include everything where there is a family of children.

And at 1fr. 50c. for any family, such as are composed of grown-up young ladies and gentlemen who, of course, give her more trouble.

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COAL AND WOOD.

The best source—Quality—Importation of English Coal—Prices of Coal at Brussels—Equivalent weight of an English ton in Kilogrammes—Wood Faggots.

COAL is found plentifully in many districts in Belgium; that from the neighbourhood of Charleroi is considered the best for household purposes, of which the *mariémont* is the most celebrated. Belgian coal is perhaps slightly inferior to the English, taking the average quality of the produce. The latter is brought to Ostend, and occasionally to Antwerp, but not often to Brussels. It is admitted free of duty, and as there is but little difference in the rate of carriage—whether by water from the north of England or by land from the Belgian mines—this would probably account for its being partially employed at Ostend and Bruges, as those towns are some distance from such inland districts.

The prices per 1,000 kilos at Brussels for the best native coal, delivered into the cellar, are :—

		fr.	c.
Gros Charbon (large pieces)	about	30	0
Grosses Gailletteries.....	,,	28	0
Petites ,, (sifted)	,,	27	0
Tout Venant (as it comes)	,,	24	0

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WOOD.

		fr.	c.
Wood *(le stère)* cut up.....	,,	16	0
,, faggots, large for lighting fires (100)	,,	17	0
,, ,, small.....the sack	,,	1	0
,, chips, shavings, ...100 kilos	,,	14	0

1,015 kilos 300 grammes represent the equivalent weight of an English ton; 1,000 kilos is nearly 34lbs. less; 1,000 kilos equal 19 cwt. 76½ lbs.

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HOTELS.

The accommodation is good—Variety of them—Cannot fail to meet the wishes of every class.

AT Brussels most of the hotels are good, and excepting a few weeks in the height of the summer season during which time they are often inundated with travellers proceeding to various parts of the continent, the accommodation is ample, exceedingly satisfactory and agreeable in every respect. Every one has his own opinion as to what constitutes a good hotel, and it may be confidently stated that at Brussels there is such a variety that they cannot fail to meet the wishes of every class, with respect to situation, comfort, and terms; but we think it would not be advisable to recommend here any particular one to the notice of our readers, as they will experience no difficulty in obtaining further information respecting these establishments.

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PRIVATE HOTELS.

May be classed with Boarding Houses—Contain more rooms *en suite* than the generality of Apartments in Private houses.

THESE are really first-class boarding houses from which they only differ in name, with the exception that you may in some hire the apartment with service and attendance only; leaving you free to cater for yourself. One may obtain very handsome apartments in these houses, but must pay a higher rent than for equal accommodation in a private house. The principal advantage attending them is that you are not necessarily obliged to bind yourself to stay for any length of time, and more rooms may be obtained in them *en suite*. There are very few private apartments in Brussels which are obtainable in flats as at Paris; the several floors here consisting of three or four rooms only, and if a larger number is particularly required it is necessary to apply to either a Public or Private Hotel. Many of the former are equally as private during the winter season, and not more expensive when board is required, which their proprietors exact.

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BOARDING HOUSES.

Character of the Boarding Houses at Brussels.

ALTHOUGH a great antipathy exists against the very name of boarding house, there are a few at Brussels which offer some advantages over the public hotels; more particularly as you may also arrange to dine in your own private apartment at very little extra expense. Some houses are so small that one family will monopolise the whole accommodation, in which case they need not fear encountering all sorts of people *en famille*, which is the usual unpleasant necessity when living in a boarding house.

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HOTEL AND BOARDING HOUSE CHARGES.

Arrange for inclusive charges—Average cost per diem—Reduced prices for children and servants—Restaurant charges—A cheap and good Belgian "table d'hote"—London restaurants.

WE would advise you always to have an understanding respecting the above, and for a family it is better to arrange the same *en pension* by the day or week. This can be done in either the private or public hotels great or small, and we know that some hotel keepers prefer this arrangement themselves. The cost per person is from five to ten francs per diem, half-price for children and servants, and the average may be taken at seven or eight francs. The very fashionable hotels charge more, but of them we are not speaking. At any rate a family may be lodged and fed as well here as anywhere and only at the cost of an enquiry, either personal or by letter, if located at a distance.

There are many restaurants where a nice *Plat de Jour* is served at 75cs. or a franc. The bouillon or soup at 30cs. This includes bread and all extras, a clean table cloth, a napkin, and good genuine civility. How one may revel in a cheap *déjeuner* of this class! Surely they would not take so much trouble about our table linen if they did not care about the cleanliness of their cooking utensils. We know all about the dirty meals served in some of the principal streets of London, and we can only say that the Belgian Restaurants are far superior to them in cleanliness, civility, capacity, and cheapness. True at the Holborn Restaurant and a few others recently established, a dinner is served at 3s. 6d. We frequently hear this extolled over the Belgian *table d'hôte*, but we are acquainted with one here where at three francs a dinner of eight courses is served, and everything of the best quality. In London the choice of a good restaurant is very restricted, and will probably take a two or three mile cab ride to get at. Here you have them in every direction, and most of them are equally good and cheap alike.

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The *Cuisine Belge* is excellent, and there are hotels and restaurants here which enjoy a European fame for good dinners. Ladies may with the greatest propriety dine at one such, being a common practice on the Continent, and the company is invariably polite, respectable, and decorous. The usual charge for a first-class dinner commences at three francs, beyond which you can fix your own price and be served accordingly. At ordinary ones the charges are proportionately lower. At the first-class hotels, the *table d'hôte* is from four francs. Their breakfasts and dinners are all cooked and served *à la française*. For a good grilled steak or chop one must go to an English tavern.

When one is living in a furnished apartment, it is often found a convenient plan to have dinners sent in from a *traiteur*, and one will be easily found near you in any part of the town who will provide them, from a franc each person. For a small family on a short visit, this plan is well worth trying, when they find a *traiteur* whose catering can be recommended.

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BELGIAN SERVANTS.

General reputation—Season Servants—A bright side—Management—Character.

ONE regrets not to hear a very high opinion of the Belgian servants, on the whole; no families in the world, perhaps, are better served than the Belgians by their native servants as a general rule, and few are more dissatisfied with them than some of the English new comers, by whom they are too well treated and spoilt, and after having once served in an English family they experience a difficulty in being taken by any other. This may be easily accounted for—families spending only a season in Brussels seldom give themselves much trouble or concern respecting servants, beyond the immediate requirements of the hour, and, in mistaken kindness, they are frequently allowed too much liberty; anticipating, also, to remain but a short time in the service, you can scarcely expect to have the best choice, and most of the applicants are, in consequence, only *season servants*. You must, therefore, dismiss from your mind the possibility of replacing those ancient retainers at home, who have been trained to your own ways, by a class here who have witnessed the arrival and departure of a dozen seasons with their migratory visitors; and without casting any reflection on them as a body—for it is the same in similar places in England and elsewhere—it is necessary for you also to be prepared for the season, and learn in time that it is not the friends of yore you have to depend on, but chameleons of various hues, who shape their colours to their own advantage. The old primitive servitor has, in fact, departed; things are not as they used to be; our potatoes are diseased, grapes blighted, cattle die, the general murrain has not left our household unscathed: aprons are discarded, and feathers and flowers are

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more important than caps. There must be a scale and grade in society, but this is sometimes, at present, hard to maintain, and if servants are necessarily servitors, they are not slow at attempting to shine in their own sphere; far more so, be it mentioned, in England than in Belgium, as in the latter, their dress is certainly more in keeping with their duties. In England, one sees the grey-haired housekeeper, the jovial old butler, and prim lady's maid, but these are not institutions which spring up in a season, and in spite of the per centage system they have grown old in their master's service and good graces, and are part and parcel of the family whose wants and wishes they minister to. Even to the small householder, whose needs are met by a maid-of-all-work, and whose greengrocer is a model of civility, one must feel at times that they do not manage these things better abroad.

There is, nevertheless, a bright side even with Belgian servants. They have strong constitutions, are hard and constant workers, early risers and frugal livers; want a little looking after in many minor things, but when there is work to be done, of whatever nature, will do it, equipped in short petticoats and wooden shoes, taking an especial delight in the use of water, washing every place down as regularly as the ebb and flow of the tide. In our opinion, seeing how well and faithfully all the English families, who have resided any length of time in the country, are served, it is more a question as to whether their employers fully understand the management necessary to develop their good qualities, and keep their faults in abeyance. Take as much care here in ascertaining their characters beforehand as you do at home, and be very wary in engaging those specious old stagers who have families to keep at home, for few of them would hesitate to represent their circumstances as tallying with your wishes, and know beforehand exactly the sort of servant an English family stands in need of, and how to use the place to their own benefit. But let the worst Belgian servants perceive that their employers are shrewd, as well as kind and liberal, and there will not be much to complain of.

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SERVANTS' WAGES.—EXTRAS.

Wages of Cooks, Housemaids, and Men Servants—Board—Beer—Washing—Aprons—Cooking—Notice to Leave—Leaving without Notice.

THE wages of good cooks are about thirty-five to fifty francs per month: housemaids, twenty to thirty-five francs; and men servants, forty to sixty francs per month. These latter are here very useful in a house, and will do any kind of work.

They expect to be allowed, at least, a half-pound each of coffee and butter, plenty of milk, but not much sugar, per week. In Belgian houses they are allowed these articles, and beer *ad libitum*, but the wages given are less. They are not so fond of meat, nor very particular about the joints, their favourite dishes being the least expensive, such as *bouilli*. They like plenty of coffee, soup, *tartines* (bread and butter) and common beer, all of which it is advisible to let them have a sufficiency—although it may be more than English servants are accustomed to receive—as these are their chief wants. The beer and washing may be left to their own providing, by giving them about five francs per month extra. The table beer, *bière de mars*, or *bière de menage* costs fourteen centimes per litre (about 1½d. per quart).

It is usual to furnish them with aprons on entering, to be given up on leaving their service.

The cooks are clever in preparing dinners, composed of foreign dishes, but if you wish plain joints cooked in the English style, and pudding instead of the confectioners' pastry, it is advisible to engage one who has previously lived in an English family. They are, one and all, extravagant in that expensive item—butter, but of which they know how to make good use in cooking.

Servants are usually hired and paid by the month, and

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they are entitled to fifteen days' notice to leave; they, being on their part, also required to give similar notice. Now, here is a difficulty: you, on your side, cannot discharge a servant at a short notice without a valid reason, whereas they will not hesitate to take themselves off at any moment. You can bring an action for *dommages interêts* if they do so, which may be awarded, but will certainly never be paid. Again we believe they may leave at once if a near relation is ill, and we have often heard them make the excuse that a mother was lying dangerously ill near some queer dyke in Holland. Of course they only tell these tales to the "Marines," but it is difficult for a stranger to meet them.

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SERVANTS' "LIVRETS."

Police regulations respecting Servants.

SERVANTS on first entering into service are furnished with *livrets* by the police authorities. These are little books, in which are entered their birth-place, age, description, etc. It is very necessary to insist on this book being produced on their entering your service, which they must have had signed by the commissaire de police, and you retain possession of the same, until they leave, when it is *your* duty to send it to the Hotel de Ville the same day, stating the date they do so. In addition to your being liable to a small fine by not complying with this rule, it is a great check on them, and brings them more under the control of the proper authorities. It is not required for a char-woman, or servant engaged by the day, to have a *livret*, and the indifferent ones will ignore the regulations altogether if you allow them; we are afraid that this wholesome custom is falling into desuetude. No servants are allowed to take rooms away from their master's house, nor can an employer let one to them, without notice being given in either case to the police office; servants are not allowed to keep their clothes, boxes, &c., away from the house without your written permission to do so.

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ENGLISH SERVANTS.

The question of bringing English Servants with you—Their character and position at home—Inconveniences—House-keepers—Nurses—A complete English household.

RESPECTING the advisability of bringing over English servants, one must be guided entirely by the position they occupy in your household at home—their character and trustworthiness. By bringing new servants you run the risk of incurring their travelling expenses without being sure that they will remain with you; as coming abroad, however pleasant they may imagine the change to be, has many more inconveniences for them than for yourself. You will find society in your sphere, which they will have but little opportunity of doing in theirs, and that alone may possibly make them discontented and unwilling to remain. In addition to their loneliness and ignorance of the language—which they are sure to feel at first, unless there are several of them together—there is less comfort in most foreign kitchens and servants' bedrooms than at home. Should you possess a really good servant, who will study and look after your interests, by no means leave such a treasure behind, because she would be invaluable, both for your comfort and purse, more particularly if she speaks a little French. In this case it is worth your while to make arrangements for her comfort also, and meet her sacrifice of home in this and other ways. Such a one would be a great check on the foreign servants, saving you considerable trouble, and not a little wasteful expenditure, always providing that she is capable and likely to be willing to undertake the duties of supervision. An English nurse maid is also better qualified for the care and management of children, unless you can meet with a good German girl, of whom there are many at Brussels, who, generally speaking, make good servants,

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and are tolerably well educated, which is no slight advantage, children so readily becoming acquainted with the language of their attendants. It is not advisable to bring any others, unless you prefer your household to be composed entirely of your old English servants, which is a very convenient plan to adopt, when the extra expense it entails is not an important question.

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ATTENDANCE AND SERVICE.

For small families—Plate and Linen given—Character of Landlady.

IN some apartments attendance is given at very moderate rate, and when the family is small, it is much better to take an apartment where such is obtainable, as it will be found more economical, and entails less trouble than engaging servants on your own account. In these apartments linen and plate is also usually at your disposal, without any material difference in the charges. It is not advisable to engage attendance, unless the people are accustomed to give it, and can be recommended for their attention, honesty and civility. A good plain housekeeper can serve you much better, and be also, at the same time, well repaid for her services at considerably less expense than you can undertake the same on your own account. Some you may trust to market for you, but it is hardly necessary to remark that before making an arrangement of this description for any length of time, you ought to be fully satisfied of the respectability and honesty of the people you engage with. Neither does this plan answer well, unless the landlady is a person who takes the duties entirely under her own management, and assists her servants with the work, otherwise it is next to impossible for it to answer satisfactorily; and when undertaken by people in a superior position, or with other duties to fulfil, which they deem more important, you will not receive a fair return for your money.

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PRICES AND QUALITY OF PROVISIONS.

General increase in cost of living—Bread, Meat and Colonial produce at Brussels—Butchers' customs—Weights and monies compared with our own—Quality of Beef, Mutton, Veal, and Pork—French cooking suits the Butcher—Cutting up—Bifstecks—Calf's Head—Grocery — Vegetables — Fruit — Flowers — Covered Market—Market on Petit Sablon—Market Days—Fish—Poultry—Game—Bargaining—Butter—Milk—Eggs—Pastry.

ONE of the first questions which a stranger coming to reside here naturally asks, relate to the above very important items, and with regard to prices, it would have been met some years ago with a very easy and satisfactory reply; but the conclusion that every one must draw at the present moment is, that owing to causes which a political economist can best determine, it is now very difficult to find a nook or corner in any civilised land where the necessaries of life have not immensely increased in value.

Families deriving small incomes from fixed sources have certainly been at a disadvantage in this rapid increase of wealth, and are excusable for risking their disposable capital in those speculative undertakings, many of which so suddenly collapse. One cannot now economise so easily on the Continent, certainly not in places which afford any other important inducements; and we are afraid, that we cannot offer any particular encouragement to those families who expect to find a very material difference in the cost of four important necessaries—Bread, Meat, Vegetables and Colonial Produce, at Brussels; although we think that the prices of the above do not vary so much, or so frequently, as in England, yet we are simply hazarding our own opinion, and can only speak here in general terms of their average cost, as being somewhere about the same price for bread; meat somewhat lower, at least ten per cent; vegetables cheap, and some of the Colonial produce dearer.

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The table appended may afford a sufficient criterion for the moment, but prices will naturally fluctuate to a certain extent, according to the laws of supply and demand, and their relative existence at any given period.

To return to details, we find that bread, one of the principal items, scarcely differs either in quality or price, whether purchased in England or in Belgium. It is light, and we may say undulterated; many think it superior here to the average quality retailed in the former. The *pistolet*, made up with milk, costing five centimes, replaces the French roll for the breakfast table, and is a very popular and convenient little roll. Bread varies slightly in price as charged at the different establishments which is duly published by the town authorities, thereby checking any great divergency in the same. We consider meat to be cheaper, and the plan in vogue by the Belgian butchers is to weigh out the whole carcase at one uniform charge, with this exception, that prime joints without bone are charged fifteen centimes per lb. extra, but the best joints carry a bone for soup, or a less profitable or cheaper portion is weighed with them; and as the natives cannot dispense with their soup, it is to be presumed that they approve of this, otherwise to many, inconvenient system.

It must be remembered that the half kilo or Belgian pound represents an ounce and a half more than our English pound weight. Then again, there is a fractional difference in our habitual custom of comparing the monies of the two countries. When one is told that meat is charged one franc or one franc and ten centimes per pound, it is hastily considered at the rate of ten pence or eleven pence, English; whereas, one gets, in the first place, about ten per cent. more in weight and an additional four per cent. in money, by the difference existing between one franc and ten pence, and the English pound and Belgian half kilo. A franc does not represent tenpence of our money as usually computed, but only a fraction more than nine pence half-penny. There is an important difference of fourteen per cent. in comparing Belgian weights and prices with the English standard, for

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the same in favour of the former. Beef or mutton are usually sold at the same rate; veal is occasionally a little dearer. Lamb, when it comes in season, is sold at so much per quarter without weighing, and pork is less plentiful than other meat, and is sold at the *charcutiérs'* or pork butchers, and is weighed without extra bone, at least in Brussels; in the country it appears not so scarce, but is there large and fat. This was the most inferior quality of meat supplied here, but has of late much improved in quality.

The quality of the meat is not equal, as may be readily supposed, to the English produce, with the exception of veal, which is really superior to that found in any other market. The graziers here have not followed the judicious example set by England in improving their breed of cattle to any perceptible extent; and their indigenous bovine race possesses very different qualities to our famous Short-horns. Their beasts make, nevertheless, capital milchers, and the produce of their dairies is excellent, that is to say the milk and butter; but all the best cheese comes from England, for they do not attempt to rival our best qualities. Mutton is smaller, resembling our Scotch meat in some degree but not equal to it in quality. The beef supplied here is generally speaking good; yet one must be a judge of it in order to make his purchases to advantage. We consider that a good deal of it is either too young or too old, and cannot be compared with an average supply of the "roast beef of old England"; it is therefore necessary to take your supplies from a first-class shop. The meat in Belgium is perhaps superior (we believe it is) to that of any other continental kingdom; at the same time our South-downs and Durhams admit of no competitors in the comparison of quality. But the extent of the export trade of meat to England from Holland and Belgium (the quality of the beef in the two latter countries we assume to be identical) is very considerable; and we once heard a metropolitan salesman, extensively engaged in this trade, speak very highly of the consignments from those countries; still we consider that Belgian beef bought indiscriminately, to be appreciated must be cooked *à la française*—cooking which defies any test of

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quality. There is but little difference in dividing the joints from what we are accustomed to see, unless it be in their peculiar aptitude for cutting bifstecks—we give the word in the most approved continental orthography, though it may be found written in fifty other different ways—from every imaginable quarter except the rump and horns. It may be as well mentioned that, that exquisite delicacy to many, the calf's head is usually sold in a par-boiled state, the cleanly condition of which the writer does not guarantee, but it may be obtained in a more convenient condition, as sold in England, by ordering it in advance.

Some articles of colonial produce and grocery stores in general are cheaper, but sugar is still heavily taxed; the same with salt. Coffee is excellent and lower priced. A large trade is carried on throughout the kingdom in Italian goods. Biscuits, preserves, pickles of British manufacture being highly prized by the Belgians, and when sugar does not enter into their composition, may be purchased at home-rates. Sugared compounds pay two pence half-penny per kilo duty on entry. The tea supplied here comes through the Dutch market, and is not generally acceptable to English palates. You must purchase this at an English warehouse.

Vegetables and fruit are excellent and are also very much cheaper than in English towns. The covered market in the Rue de la Madeleine offers on market days a really charming sight, well worth an occasional visit to any one, for there is generally exhibited a display of bouquets, fruits, vegetables, poultry and game, profuse in quantity and unexceptionable in beauty and quality. An early market is held on the Grand' Place for vegetables and fruit, where it is sold in wholesale quantities; but on the Grand Sablon any supply of fruit, vegetables, eggs and butter may be bought on more reasonable terms than under the covered market. This is the best market to make your provision of such stores, and is where the careful Belgian housekeeper invariably attends. It commences early and closes punctually at mid-day. The covered market is open until three o'clock. Friday is the best market day for all kinds of provisions, with the

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exception of meat, of which there is a better choice on Saturdays.

The fish market is at the lower end of the town, but the supply is very limited on all days, with the exception of Thursdays and Fridays, more especially the latter. Fish is considerably dearer here on the average than in England; more particularly some of our most favourite dishes—such as salmon, turbot, soles, and mackerel. Salmon and mackerel are in fact too dear, and the supply too scanty to render them often obtainable, but the Dutch salmon is delicious.

The poultry is famous, there being an abundant supply quite equal to the great continuous demand, and is unexceptionable in quality; the prices for the same vary considerably, and are cent. per cent. higher than they used to be some few years back, when few countries were so well provided in this article. Game does not call for any especial remarks, beyond mentioning that a great variety is usually exhibited, which varies considerably in price according to the season. Ostend rabbits are naturally enough very plentiful, and are sold at so much apiece, instead of by weight as in England. The wild rabbits are very small. "Grives" or common thrush, make a favourite side-dish at Belgian dinners, and are in common with numerous other varieties of little birds exhibited in profuseness. Great quantities of pigeons are sold here, and are generally speaking very cheap, and invariably of good quality. Purchasers find it to their advantage to cheapen the prices usually asked for all articles.

In conclusion—butter, milk, and eggs—three very useful items are reasonable in price, and for freshness and quality are nowhere surpassed. Pastry shops are very numerous, and the articles supplied therefrom are in every way superior to the English ones and at much lower prices. Our produce in this department is here, in fact, a standing joke.

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ENVIRONS OF BRUSSELS.

Furnished Houses or Apartments in the environs of Brussels—Disadvantage attending Country life in Belgium—The most pleasant Suburb—Boitsfort - Groenendael—Towns to pass the Winter at—Seaside and Watering places—Cheap Family Hotels at Rochefort and Dinant in the Ardennes.

THE question being frequently asked respecting the possibility of hiring furnished *châteaux*, small houses, or even furnished apartments in the environs of the city, we must observe that it is very difficult to obtain such likely to meet the wishes of English visitors. We do not, of course, allude to the faubourgs or suburbs which constitute a portion of Brussels but to the surrounding country villages. This may probably be explained by the little demand existing for this class of accommodation, but if you require and are able to obtain it, we cannot give much encouragement respecting Belgian country life. We think English families would find that a quiet retired existence may be as readily attained in the immediate vicinity of a Belgian town as in an out-of-the-way village where they suffer many inconveniences. A reaction of ideas would soon disabuse one of any pre-conceived opinion of rural felicity here, even presuming that being shut out from society would be no drawback, where in most directions you are surrounded by a flat uninteresting country, and a class of peasantry not calculated to invite especial sympathy; where it is, perhaps, impossible to hire any convenient conveyance even to the railway station; to live in a locality which affords no sufficiently attractive drives to induce you to keep your own carriage; roadways of uneven stone terribly destructive to horses' legs, carriage wheels, and personal ease and comfort. The stateliest chateau appears dull and dreary; any signs of vitality being seldom perceptible, either from within or without. Straight roads, straight

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canals, and upright trees on either side at regular distances from each other. Luxurious parks are a myth. The *Jardin Anglais* is very bare and dreary looking and but a poor imitation of our own. There are innumerable ponds, peopled with innumerable frogs; and dreary public-houses at every step, which appeal for patronage to their humble customers by sign boards daubed with red and white paint, representing the everlasting ham and glass of faro. How one misses the magnificent old hall, the substantial grange, the pert villa, and cheery inn and comfortable cottage, surprising us with a delightful view in every turn of the old country lanes in merry England.

If you prefer living away from the town, we do not advise a search beyond the suburbs of Brussels, the most pleasant part of which is in the direction of the Bois de la Cambre, commencing from the Porte Louise towards either Uccle or Boitsfort. In this district you will also be most likely to meet with a furnished house or apartment. On high-days and holidays this wood is resorted to by a crowd of well-dressed people, always forming a quiet orderly stream, however numerous. One can scarcely tire of its shady walks which combine the freshness of the real, enhanced by every resource which artifice and skill can bestow.

Boitsfort and Groenendael are two little villages in the Bois de la Cambre, having stations on the Luxembourg line, the former being about four and the latter about six miles from Brussels. Very frequently a furnished cottage or a *chalet* may be obtained in this direction, affording an agreeable summer's retreat, or the furniture may be hired from a warehouse at Brussels, if required for the summer season and the house be unfurnished; but there are generally difficulties in the way of finding a residence for strangers in such localities, at least one that is likely to meet their wishes. Brussels, Bruges, Spa, Ostend, Blankenberghe, and Heyst are the towns in Belgium most adapted to afford a temporary home to the majority of English visitors. The two first named during the winter, and the latter at choice as summer seaside or inland watering places. These are agreeable and fashionable places of rendezvous; but if one prefers to pass a short time in the

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summer in a more retired neighbourhood, we would recommend Rochefort and Dinant in the Ardennes, where family hotels may be found which are clean, comfortable, and moderate in their charges; but there is no similarity between English and Belgian country life.

With regard to the seaside towns, it is as well to remember that they are more reasonable during the early part of the summer. The expensive season is of very short duration, but during the month of August, houses and apartments are very dear, possibly not so at Heyst; but Ostend and Blankenberghe are very much frequented by the wealthier classes of Germans, Russians, and others. Spa, since the abolition of its gaming tables, has lost somewhat of its ancient prestige, as its coffers are not now overflowing enough to enable it to afford so many distractions and amusements.

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SIGHTS, WALKS, AMUSEMENTS AND EXCURSIONS.

Sights at Brussels—The Grand Place—The Hotels des Villes in Belgium—Churches—Museum at Brussels—Wiertz's Gallery—The Prince de'Aremberg's — Concerts — Promenades—Exhibitions—The Opera—Vauxhall—Quinconce—Zoological Gardens—Musical Societies—Court Balls—Kursaal Marugg—Botanical Gardens—Races—The Park—Boulevards—Bois de la Cambre—Laeken—Waterloo—Groenendael—Trois Fountains.

WE shall adhere to our original purpose of adapting our information solely to the requirements of families who come to reside in the country, and by no means attempt to rival any of the numerous guide books which chronicle the above in due order. We shall, therefore, curtail our remarks about the sights and amusements at Brussels, and also the excursions

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therefrom, to the smallest possible space, simply indicating a few of the most favoured resorts in a discursive manner, in case our little work should fall into the hands of anyone who might expect an acknowledgement of them, however slight. We shall not attempt to exhaust even the mere catalogue of Belgian sights, but rather make a few hasty jottings from memory, as much for our own relief from treating subjects which, however necessary and important, are as dry as were the figures in a Gladstonian budget in our young days. Here we shall also throw off our serious economical tendencies, and premise that, although there is much to be seen in this quaint old country, we do not assume the task to cheapen the silver key which opens the portals of its treasures. Even families, bent solely on educational purposes, may feel it advisable to relax the bow occasionally, and allow the younger branches to turn from the conjugation of French verbs to the contemplation of the master-pieces of Rubens, Vandyke, and all the noble host of ancient and modern Flemish artists; from the description of Marathon, in a dead language, to a glowing account of our own countrymen's exploits at Waterloo, perhaps from an actual participator in the fray, but, at any rate, on the actual field of battle, and surrounded by mementoes of our glorious victory!

At Brussels, one must linger on that grand old Grand' Place, where stands its magnificent Hotel de Ville, in which the Duchess of Richmond is erroneously supposed to have given her farewell ball to half of her aristocratic friends, and without which the tragedy of Waterloo would lose half its pathos; where Brunswick's fated chieftain certainly never heard the prophetic knell. It is immaterial where that ball was given, for if that curious old English tavern, one now finds at Brussels,* had flourished in those days, a goodly proportion of our gallant defenders would have been found within its precincts, and may certainly be looked for there on the next occasion.

One never wearies looking at those old houses with gilded gables on that venerable square, and we feel almost inclined to quarrel with the modern artist, that he has not

* The "Prince of Wales," in the Rue Villa-Hermosa.

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presented us the Counts d'Egmont and de Hornes clad in rusty armour and with headless trunks, instead of giving the actual artistic statues.* Those Counts and their fates are ever on the *tapis* in Belgium, and makes one doubt that this historic country could have been so well supplied with ancient patriots as we know was the fact; they haunt one like the quotation of Macauley's New Zealander on London Bridge, or, rather on the ruins of it that are to be, when he makes his appearance in the year 2,883, A.D., or some ulterior date.

Then there is the patron saint, the valiant St. Michael, looking down from a giddy height, having recovered his sword which one of Jove's thunderbolts hurled down, probably through some misunderstanding between those mythological potentates, if we may so class them. It is now, thanks to modern science, protected by a conductor.

This Grand Old Place, however convenient the arrangements may be, scarcely appears the proper locality to devote to the sale of the lumber of all the united

* These statues have lately been removed to the Place du Petit Sablon, facing the mansion of the Duke d'Aremberg, one of whose ancestors married the heiress of the Comte d'Egmont. From a dull spiritless square, this is now transformed into a very tasteful garden, surrounded by bronze statuettes, representing the ancient trades and workmen of Belgium—to our taste, very ornamental and significative, but a travelling Sheffield knife-grinder, of our acquaintance, at once compared them to a lot of fantastic chessmen—everyone cannot be satisfied. One of our greatest pleasures in life is when arriving early in the morning in London, to look on the effigies of our Nelson, Havelock and Outram, in the neighbourhood of Trafalgar Square, yet we have often heard them condemned by Connaisseurs of the fine arts, and we bless our stars that we are not equally gifted—we look at them—we think of their glorious deeds in the past—they, the men, who preserved England's prestige and power, glory and greatness. We could almost fall down and worship them, even if cast in plaster of Paris, and so we, following our natural instinct, love to look at these old Flemish artisans, in manly, artistic and working attitudes The men who worked in their attics, at their forges and smithies, their antique looms and spindles, the men who suffered persecution—the horrible rack and cruel death at the hands of the unholy inquisition of Spain, rather than abate one jot of their independency of thought, one iota of their detestation of that hateful, political, religious domination of the haughty, cruel, relentless and despotic Spaniard.

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marine store dealers from the seven dials district of Brussels, or to be the resort of dirty mongrels with dirtier dog fanciers, and to be made the mart on Sunday mornings of every specimen of curious birds and animals which would half populate a second Noah's ark. We demur that gilded old palaces, with their time honoured reminiscences should be turned into *estaminets*, and that in the immediate vicinity of the seat of their ancient corporation, and under the frown of St. Michael himself! But the columns and cornices are still kept bright and glittering with gold, and it is to be presumed that St. Michael is as amiable as he is reputed to have been valiant, and knowing the peculiar idyosyncracies of his humble *protegés* winks instead of frowns on their doings in beer, old clo', Derby pigeons, and curious quadrupeds, although it might have had something to do with the tumbling down of his mighty weapon.

The Hotels de Ville in Belgium are imposing structures, and recall the mind to a period in history when the burly Flemish burgomaster was surrounded by the wealth and magnificence their important commerce procured; now one gazes with astonishment to find such noble buildings, fit to be the governing seat of Emperors, in dull little towns, devoted to very petty, if useful parochial affairs, the most important, perhaps, being the due registration of the births, marriages, and departures of all the Van somethings whom one sees in the vicinity, and their fellow inhabitants.

In churches, Brussels is out-shone by Antwerp, although Ste. Gudule, and one or two others, are very fine buildings. The great attraction at Ste. Gudule is the pulpit, around which is a beautifully carved representation of the Garden of Eden.

Attention must be drawn to the Public Museum, to the Musée at Porte de Hal, which is filled with antiquarian relics, and the collection of Wiertz's paintings, also belonging to the State; the splendid gallery in the Prince d'Aremberg's palace, all of which must continue to attract the admiration of visitors.

Concerts, promenades, the court balls, and exhibitions of paintings and flowers are, one or other of them, always

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taking place. The fine arts pervade everything, and there are few places in the world where, considering the population, they are carried to greater perfection. Of Theatres there is no lack, and all at very moderate charges for admission. These are given with full particulars in the appendix. The Opera or Théâtre de la Monnaie, as it is called, is a handsome building, prettily decorated and possesses a good staff, but does not pretend to vie with those of richer communities, although subsidised by the government, and when a Patti condescends to warble here, one trembles for the fate of the manager's resources; the orchestra is splendid, and for instrumental music the performers at Brussels are unsurpassed, and although even a native *prima donna* generally seeks a wealthier domicile, the Belgian musical societies invaribly secure the international prizes. Considering the low rate of admission fees to all their entertainments, their talent can be but indifferently remunerated. During the spring and summer seasons, concerts are given every evening at the Vauxhall, which is located in the park, the charge for admission being a franc; the very élite of society meet here, and the performance is of the first order; the same may be said of the open-air concerts given occasionally elsewhere. We regret that since our last edition was issued, the Jardin Zoologique has been closed, but the pleasant Parc Leopold has replaced it, and football is now inaugurated on the skating rink within its precincts.

The societies of the Grande Harmonie and others, frequently give concerts available to the public.

The Court Balls are a great attraction to those English families whose position obtains the necessary recognition from the English embassy to give them the *entrée*.

The Botanical Gardens offer a treat to the botanical amateur or student.

Exhibitions of Paintings, Sculptures, and Flowers, at frequent intervals, and Races in the Spring and Autumn take place near Boitsfort, and Forest, where either dust or mud is sure to be as plentiful and as unacceptable as salt water was to Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner."

In addition to the charming little park and delightful boulevards, which are unequalled for a dignified stroll to

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fashionable loungers, there are pleasant walks and drives in the Bois de la Cambre, which may be reached by the American tramway. Skating on the lake here in the winter also proves a great attraction.

Laeken is reached by the *Allée Verte*, once the fashionable promenade, but now almost deserted. Here, by the broad canal and under the shadows of the fine trees, everywhere in straight lines, one reaches Laeken, where half hidden in foliage is the king's suburban palace; the magnificent new Catholic Church cannot fail also to attract attention; Laeken is likewise the last resting place of the Belgian Royal Family. Some gravestones recall to mind the old English servants who accompanied the first Leopold to his adopted country, and died in his service or on his pension, speaking volumes to the memory of both. The celebrated Malibran is interred here, and her tomb is not the least interesting in a graveyard which carries reminiscences to many English visitors.

Waterloo is still resorted to on account of its historic fame, of which England claims the chief share. It is about twelve miles from Brussels and may be reached by rail. A mail coach also runs during the summer months, and is very popular with tourists, but the best plan for a family of means is to engage a carriage and pair of horses, as this will give them plenty of time to see everything of interest. The principal feature of the celebrated field of battle is, of course, the old Château de Hougoumont, now an old farmhouse occupied by good natured well-to-do dames, who till the costly soil

"Where an empire's dust is sepulchred below."

The Musée contains an exceedingly interesting selection of well attested relics, and is owned by one of the most obliging and honest English women to be met with, whose substantial fare in her adjoining hotel affords an agreeable change from the Table d'Hôte.

Be sure if you go by road to instruct your coachman to drive through the Bois de la Cambre, either on going or returning; it is a little against the horse but affords a very pleasant change from the monotony of the paved road.

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Plenty of Guides and Guide Books will be found on arrival, whose purpose it is not our province to interfere with.

The Hotels are :—Hotel du Musée, Hotel des Colonnes, and the Grand Hotel, and others. Nearly every other house in the village being *estaminets*, or common beer shops.

Groenendael must be again referred to as a pleasant little spot for a pic-nic, being easy of access, either by rail or road through the forest of Soignies, in a valley of which it is seated; the grounds attached to the *Château* (a first-class restaurant) are very pleasant, and the Hotel de Groenendael is kept by a homely Flemish dame, whose charges are reasonable. Again, at the Station, there is a *buffet*. One might go further and not fare so well; everything set before you is well what one need wish.

Trois Fontaines, a village on the Brussels and Antwerp Canal about six miles from the first named. Boats of a very fair class can be obtained at Laeken Bridge, and a capital pull for those fond of boating is afforded from thence to the first lock at Trois Fontaines in the neighbourhood of Vilvorde; passing the lock one can row on to Malines, and starting again eventually reach Antwerp if so disposed. We could speak of many other places of interest, but we feel ourselves restricted to the immediate neighbourhood of Brussels, and will in consequence take leave of the subject for the present.

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PALAIS DE JUSTICE.

THE new Palais de Justice, which has just been opened, merits notice; but however freely our ink may flow when talking about domestic matters, we are quite at a loss adequately to describe this magnificent structure. Yet to leave it entirely out of notice would be equivalent to composing a catalogue of

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the Tower of London and forgetting to note the Crown jewels. Monsieur Bara, the *Ministre de Justice*, in his eloquent speech at the opening ceremony, supplies us with nearly all the information which we need require, and an English gentleman, with a practical eye to comfort, drew our attention to the fact that it was most uniformly heated throughout at a glowing temperature, which is far from being the case with our own new Law Courts. We expect some of its compulsory patrons find it a little too warm! It has been seventeen years in construction, has cost 45 millions of francs, and is perhaps the finest edifice in the world! It stands on a commanding site, and may be seen for many surrounding miles. At Waterloo, on the Lion Mount, it appears within an easy walking distance. It covers a space of 26,000 square metres, nearly three times the size of the Place Royale, or including the terraces and entrance ground, 56,464 square metres. St. Peter's at Rome and the new Law Courts at London, cover respectively 22,000 and 14,693, consequently it is nearly double the size of the latter. The ventilation is performed by two engines underground, and the heat is distributed by an immense *calorifère*, otherwise it would have required 1500 stoves. In each room the heat may be regulated by a key. The cost of the lighting and warming apparatus was 1,200,000 francs, the ventilating pipes are 900 metres in length, large enough to admit a man to stand upright in with his hat on, and the consumption of coals is three tons per diem; but we are at a loss to understand how a city of little more than four hundred thousand, or a country of less than six million inhabitants, should require such a building for such a purpose. Its gifted architect, Poelarts, who was called away before its completion, has certainly laid a heavy load here, and reminds us of the epitaph, "Lie heavy on him earth, for he laid many a heavy load on thee." But great, grand and imposing in effect, it is apparently of most symetrical and proportionate lines.

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EDUCATION.

The position attained by Brussels as an Educational City—State aid—National artistic taste—The "Conservatoire" or Academy of Music—The Director—Tuition gratuitous to Belgians—Fees charged to Foreigners "The Concours"—Ancient and Modern Masters—Professors' Fees—Pure French—Schools—Belgian—English—Special classes—Rules of the "Conservatoire"—The Universities of Ghent and Liége—Instruction—Fees—"Athénées"—University at Brussels—"Ecoles Moyennes"—Medical Degrees.

FEW places enjoy such an extended reputation for the number and first-class character of its educational establishments as Brussels; and we consider that the advantages afforded here for the purpose of tuition are unequalled by any other place on the continent. We presume that we are addressing a class far better qualified than ourselves to form a correct estimate of the value of some portion of their children's education being undertaken abroad, but a few words on the subject may be required of us.

The position attained by Brussels as the city *par excellence* for education, setting aside its central position and proximity to England, in a great measure is due to the proficiency and character of its professors and masters. This proficiency is acquired through the fostering aid which is granted them by the State, for it is here held of the most paramount importance that every child should receive a certain amount of instruction, which being accomplished, those who are desirous of acquiring further knowledge, or wish to make tuition their profession, receive every encouragement and facilities for the purpose. The love of the fine arts is inherent in the national character, which is also modest and unambitious. Masters are consequently met with who enjoy a reputation as *savants* and artists in their respective vocations of no mean celebrity. Take for instance the *Conservatoire* or Academy

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of Music. Its professors are all of the highest class, and it was, until recently, presided over by FETIS, known to be unrivalled in scientific musical knowledge. He has been succeeded by Monsieur GEVAERTS, who is scarcely less distinguished. Here several hundred pupils are educated at the public expense; a certain amount of half yearly progress being the only condition required of them; and strangers are admitted to participate in its privileges by an annual payment of two hundred francs. Such a complete musical training must have an important influence in furnishing masters, and in preserving a high standard of musical excellence in the country, and a like proficiency as is thereby secured, can only be obtained in England by the most expensive processes. Let the results be witnessed by a visit to the annual *Concours* or public examination of the pupils trained at the *Conservatoire* who compete for medals and other distinctions. This examination in the various musical subjects, and the distribution of prizes to the successful aspirants, takes place the last week in the month of July, it is free to the public, and we know of no more instructive and interesting sight to the visitor. Let him then compare it with that of our own London Royal Academy of Music, with its costly fees and puny results. This will, probably, soon be remedied to a certain extent, by the strenuous efforts now being made by the Prince of Wales and the English nation, to found an English college.

Again, in another branch of the fine arts, the Belgian School of Painting may be said to hold one of the highest positions. Her modern masters, such as Leys, Gallait, Verbockhoven, Dillon, Slingenheyer, are not unworthy successors of Rubens, Vandyke, and that galaxy of talented men whose works constitute the distinctive mark of the Flemish Gallery. Whether we take music, painting, sculpture, or any of the Arts and Sciences, one is struck by the high standard of excellence here achieved and maintained by successive generations, the reputation of which is universal. Where so many strive for perfection, their example is emulated by recruits from the ranks of other nations and the *locale* is a favoured resort with tutors of every department of every education; the cost of this

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latter at Brussels is consequently as advantageous to visitors as its high class character is incontestable.

The fees for the various masters sought after, naturally depend on the proficiency of the pupil and their own standing and acquirements. As some approximate sum may be requested, we can only give the average as being from three to ten francs. The services of excellent professors are then secured, and we may assume them to be of equal value with the lessons bestowed for a guinea in England, setting aside the difficulty of finding them congregated in such a narrow radius there, as is the case at Brussels.

A thorough English education finished abroad is perhaps the best that can be given, as the accomplishments to be attained by such a course can scarcely be overrated at the present day. A child going abroad at an early age readily masters the pronounciation, accent, and idiom of the language of the people he is cast amongst, but we scarcely hold with an exclusively foreign education being given, or, unless the object be solely to acquire the language of the country, an English school here is probably more advantageous to the pupil than the native one. There is also the question that Paris is the only place to acquire pure French, but the contagion of adopting the *patois* of the lower orders there, would be equally as objectionable as the Flemish peasant's manner of speaking French, and it cannot be supposed that the Belgian gentleman or professor is unaccustomed to talk with purity of style and accent. There is about as much to be feared on this account, as we should feel respecting the cockney corruptions of the City Arab.

Schools being so numerous, the terms must necessarily vary sufficiently to meet the requirement of every class, and pupils are charged according to the respective position of the same. The Belgian schools will be found cheaper than the English, or than those Belgian ones which are supported by foreign visitors. The English schools have all a high standing and are of considerable repute. A plan is adopted in one we are acquainted with, where classes are formed for special subjects, which are made available for other pupils who may require improvement in any one

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in particular, without becoming otherwise associated with the general course of tuition. This is an advantageous arrangement in many respects, but the school is very select and exclusive. The following synopsis of a few of the principal rules in force at the *Conservatoire*, may possibly be of service to some visitors.

To be admitted to the *Conservatoire*, a formal demand must be made to the Director the week before the commencement of the sessions, and be accompanied by a certificate of birth, and is granted to strangers with the permission of the *Ministre de l'Interieur* on the recommendation of the former, who will give them a certificate before the opening of the classes. They are subject to the same rules as the Belgian pupils.

The lectures commence the first Monday in October, and are continued until the July following, with the exception of a short vacation at Easter.

To be admitted, a pupil must be at least nine years of age, be able to read, write, and calculate, and physically capable of the class of studies he purposes to follow. Over fourteen years of age, they must be acquainted with the elements of music. Under nine years of age, and those who do not make sufficient progress, must take lessons at home or elsewhere.

The admission to the several classes is always attended by examination, and a certain amount of proficiency is exacted.

Strangers as before stated, must pay an annual premium of two hundred francs.

Each professor gives three lessons per week.

Every student who does not regularly follow the course of lessons, is liable to be dismissed.

The instruction to Belgian children of both sexes is gratuitous, and includes all branches of the musical art ; *solfège*, the reading of music ; singing — solo, and class.

The organ, stringed and wind instruments. the piano, harmony and accompaniment ; composition, the Italian tongue, the latin pronunciation, and declamation in French.

In addition to these courses of instruction, there may be

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established a class of *plain-chant*, or church music, and professors of acoustics and musical æsthetics.

The *Conservatoire* possesses a library and collection of instruments for the service of the pupils.

It is under the management of seven gentlemen including the President, all of whom are named by the King.

The Burgomaster of Brussels is honorary President of this committee.

We may be required to say a few words about the ordinary Belgian education, as given by the State Schools, commencing with the Universities and Athenæums, and descending to the more elementary schools, such as the *Ecoles Moyennes*, *Normales*, &c. There are two State Universities in Belgium; namely at Ghent and Liége and a free University at Brussels.

The University of Ghent offers the necessary instruction for the arts and manufactures, architecture and engineering, ship building, making of roads, canals, and machinery. The University of Liége for the arts, manufactures and mines, metallurgy, and geometry, as specially applied to the construction of machinery.

The instruction embraces all high-class subjects.

The practices of law, medicine and surgery, are taught at both the latter in connection with the Civil Hospitals.

The pupils receive only three hours of lessons per diem, in addition to hospital work or practical exercises.

The first session commences the first week in October, the second the last Monday in February and ends the first Saturday in August, and about ten days vacation is allowed at Easter, six at Christmas, and eleven at various intervals.

The Government authorises admission at other intervals on the recommendation of the professors, and will fix the proportionate entrance fees.

The punishments are reprimand, suspension and exclusion.

The charge for registration is 15 francs per annum each pupil.

The annual fees are from 200 to 250 francs. Medals and purses are accorded to pupils who distinguish them-

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selves at the examinations, to which strangers who have studied here are allowed to compete.

The professional and commercial education given at the State *Athénées* of Brussels, Ixelles, and other towns is of the highest standard, conducted by eminent professors in every department, and a reference to the fees demanded will shew at a glance what a superior education is brought within the reach of nearly every class who choose to avail themselves of the advantages this liberal and paternal Government affords.

We can here only give a synopsis of the several branches taught which are as follows, at the *Athénée* Royal of Brussels :—

There are two divisions: the first intended for law, medicine, and sciences, and is styled *La section des humanités* or scientific section. The second, *La section professionnelle* for commerce, surveying, and other employments of a lower standard than the preceeding.

A youth may be entered in either, and is classed according to his merit, and there he remains for one year, after which he is examined and advanced if he has qualified himself.

There are seven classes in the first division, the first class of which is divided into two.

In the seventh, or lowest class, in the first division are taught French, Flemish, German, history, geography, and mathematics.

In the sixth are added the natural sciences.

In the fifth Latin and English.

In the fourth, third, and second, Greek.

The first is divided into Rhetoric, and Rhetoric superior, the latter dispensing with a continuance of mathematics and natural sciences.

Elementary astronomy is classed with geography in both divisions.

In the second division are seven classes, the first being divided into three ; the third into two.

In the seventh and sixth are taught French, Flemish, German, history, geography, mathematics, and natural sciences.

In the fifth is added English; fourth and third, commercial and political economy, to be discontinued in the

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third scientific; second scientific, drawing is added; first, scientific, it is discontinued; then follow the second and first commercial and industrial classes, which comprise the highest studies in French, Flemish, German, English, history, geography, mathematics, natural sciences and political economy.

Some idea may be gained of the class of studies engaged when we mention from a late report that in the first classes of the second division, French comprised the works of Bossuet, Corneille, and Molière; German, Schiller and Goethe; English, the British classical authors and mathematics, analytical and descriptive geometry and trigonometry. The first division in addition, Macbeth and Paradise Lost; and in Latin, Horace, Terence, Cicero, Tacitus; Greek, Euripides, Demosthenes and Plato, and equally severe tasks in other subjects. They are not allowed a superficial knowledge of these. The professors are not only very learned men, but they are very painstaking men.

We do not know whether we are wearying the patience of our readers, but we wish to say that we are not speaking in a merely guide-book style, we have had practical proof of the thorough educational training a boy or girl obtains in the persons of our nearest relatives. He must work hard and fast, however clever he may be, to hold his own, where he will meet picked young fellows of many nations; in fact we may say the same of all the national academies, universities, and schools in Belgium —they are cosmopolitan. Be his actual position or future destiny what it may, no idle fellow can pass the highest grades of science, arts or learning in Belgium. He must have capacity and industry to back him to do so, and all this at little cost beyond his own exertions! We think that we are doing right in bringing this as much as possible into notice. No doubt education is making rapid strides in England for the lower classes. Perhaps for many, a little too fast—as our national characters differ. According to our own view of the question, the artisan's son in England, whose father earns a better weekly wage than many a little shopkeeper or well-educated and refined clerk, after a few years at a board school, leaves with a

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promiscuous smattering of Latin and dancing, with the ambition to wear a black coat. Having no capital he becomes a clerk. He readily obtains his £1 per week, but for how long ?—He generally has to wait years before he doubles it, and is equal in position to his father. Undoubtedly the true-hearted genuine boy will eventually make his position ungrudgingly on all sides; but he is no longer allowed to wear fustian, throw down his hammer at six o'clock, be independant even of his master as the mechanic is, or live in a country cottage at a few shillings per week. He must sleep in a little backroom in a dirty district, at double the rent of his father's cottage, and the least indiscretion will cost him his berth, which a hundred hungry applicants are greedy to snatch away, and he then probably pinches for months. Instead of becoming a music-hall dandy, the young artisan here, after the advantages received at his Governmental school, does not disdain to bring the refined taste his education and intercourse with his social superiors has given him, to the workshop and forge, or with special endowments becomes himself a preceptor or shines as an artist in music, painting, or sculpture. It is surprising what talent and application exists amongst the humbler educated classes—what little false pride it gives them! Take the young girls also—they possess equal educational advantages — they do not neglect their domestic duties simply because they leave the first rank of their school with flying colours. They may be gifted with many accomplishments, but the family soup must be made, the *pot au feu* kept warm for their father's humble dinner —the younger branches have also to be looked after—one or other is always on the alert about the coming "first communion," to be gaily decked with white robes, superb sashes and magnificent tinsel jewellery. Thus then, whilst it yet remains to be seen how far education of the lower class will serve the interest of the English nation; who will be the hewers of stone, the drawers of water, the ploughmen, and tillers of the land; here there can be no question, but that it is an unalloyed benefit. Whether praise be due to the Catholic who works in the old feudal spirit, or the Liberal who strives heart and soul to be first to sow the

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rich seed on the wayside, the fact remains the same. Belgium is the country *par excellence*, where all who run may gather in the harvest of the mind.

There is no shutting one's eyes here to the benefit of a mixed class of education, so far as tends to the sympathy of the several classes for each other—which is now also very necessary on the Continent in a political sense. The daughter of the butcher, the baker, or the candlestick maker, may sit down by the side of the mince little lady from the west end of Brussels, without being asked the price of her father's mutton, and partakes an equal share of the rich gifts of the fountain of knowledge. The banker's son is there to conduct himself properly and learn his lessons, not to play the bully, and if he made a too free use of his pocket money would stand a good chance of being suspended or expelled. Decorum, propriety and good taste are exhibited by the professors, and exacted from the pupils. Punctual habits and a becoming exterior are rigorously exacted. Many of those learned and painstaking professors return home to a household conducted on a scale as frugal as that of their humblest *élèves*. All honour and credit is their due, and let it be meted out to them freely and largely, and respect to the free and homely country of their nationality.

How many of our middle classes whose ancestry was noted, and whose connections are wealthy and influential, wait longingly for the presentation to some foundation school. Surely they would be wiser to forget the past, to ignore tardy gifts, and boldy seize the advantages a neighbouring and generous government offers to the citizens of that large parish we, however great, form only a portion of. Granted the weight, the influence, and advancement an education at our public schools offers, when the *bonne bouche* is secured, yet whilst the grass grows the steed starves. The very outfit to one costs more than several years of fees at a university here, and if a boy has any metal in him, he will always with a good education such as we shew can be cheaply secured at Brussels, be able to carve out his own future career successfully.

The fees at the University of Brussels are, we are informed by the Secretary, nearly the same as those of

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Ghent and Liége, 215 francs for medical studies, 265 francs for the others, but it is more particularly adapted for the use of the professions of law and medicine. Engineers and others are more specially instructed at Ghent and Liége.

With regard to the lesser Government Schools in which the children of strangers are also admitted, we can only say that at a very reasonable rate young people may obtain an exceedingly good elementary education; they are admitted at six years of age, and the fees are from 15 to 40 francs per quarter, according to the age of the pupils, and if several of the same family attend, a fifth is deducted for each. This includes foreign languages, French, German, Italian, with our own, drawing, dancing, and gymnastics, in addition to the ordinary studies. Mothers have also the privilege of assisting at a weekly *resumé* of the progress made, and can also superintend their education the remainder of the week *(Cours généraux)*. They are all respectable, but some are of better class than others. The free Government Schools take all such as are unable or unwilling to pay. The *Ecoles Moyennes* are superior to these. We presume that no where else can young middle class ladies be educated better than at the school in the Rue du Marais, under the direction of Mlle. Gatti de Gomond. This is a day school, but there are *pensions* attached to it and also to the *Athénées*, the charges for which vary from 600 francs in the country to 1000 francs at the principal ones in Brussels, school fees included. Here the pupils receive, besides their board, additional instruction with home lessons.

We are not seeking to disparage the value of those first-class boarding schools which exist here also, and are more adapted for non-resident English families of position, as the classes are less mixed than at a Belgian school. Mlle. Gatti's abilities are duly complimented every year in public meeting by the Burgomaster or Minister of Instruction, but not more fully than she merits. We know all about the respective merits of the Public Girls' Schools here and in England, having had personal experience in members of our own family, and do not hesitate to say

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that England so far is behind Belgium in the matter of cheap, and at the same time, first-class education.

By the regulations of the University of Brussels, British and other practitioners, provided with medical and surgical qualifications, are admitted to examination before the Faculty for the degree of M.D. Residence is not required for such as are unable to absent themselves long by reason of their professional occupations.

No degrees, however, are granted *in absentia*, and candidates must come over in person and have their names inscribed in the books of the University :—

	Francs.	£	s.	d.
Fees for inscriptions of name	215	8	12	0
Do. for examinations	325	13	0	0
Do. for legalisation of diploma ..	10	0	8	0
Total....Fr.	550	£22	0	0

Unsuccessful candidates may present themselves again three months after rejection on paying half of the examination fees.

Candidates who have paid in advance the fees for the three tests, and are unsuccessful in the first, recover the fees paid for the second and third examinations; those who fail in the second recover the fees paid for the third examination.

Great importance is attached to practical knowledge, but candidates must also prove that they possess positive theoretical science.

Examinations take place on the first Tuesday in November, December, February, May, and June. They are *vivâ voce*, but candidates may undergo a written examination by paying an additional fee of £1 for each test.

Candidates must exhibit their qualifications or diplomas.

The three examinations may be got through in a week, allowing a day's interval between each test.

The examinations are conducted in English, through the medium of an interpreter (without additional fee) for such candidates as are not familiar with the French language.

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The degrees granted by the Faculty are merely scientific titles, and do not confer the right to practise medicine in Belgium.

Full particulars may be obtained by any interested person.

We could continue talking on this subject much longer, but the printer's imp is waiting, so we bring our observations to a close, trusting they will be received in the same spirit as they are offered.

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POPULARITY OF THE ENGLISH IN BELGIUM.

Our Ancestors on their "Grand Tour"—The English "Prestige" in Belgium—Belgium and the Belgians—The visit of English Mayors and Volunteers to Belgium—General disposition towards English Visitors.

BEFORE railways and steamboats were brought to bear their influence on the destiny of peoples, the great lords of England were looked after on their travelling tours with no little admiration and respect. It must have been a grand thing to be even a poor roving Englishman in those days, for the lavish Russian prince, or a silver mined Mackay of modern times, cannot altogether dispel the shade of our old country's bright guineas, which cast a magic halo around her name; they gilded many a burgher's palm at a time when the resources of this kingdom were in abeyance, and the strangers' gold was of good service to him. There was also a *cachet* attached to our travelling ancestors, a straightforward confidence and generosity in their relations with all men, which has left an abiding mark in foreign lands, and is there still faithfully believed in by many; but every one can travel now-a-days, and we are afraid that if our name has not lost some of its caste we must thank our foreign friends for their abiding attachment to the legendry records of the good quailities of the Sir Roger de Coverleys of yore. They have given our nation such a *prestige* that one would fain like to believe in spirit mediums, we would then at once call up Mr. Waverley's uncle, or old Sir Roger, and learn the incidents attending the grand tour of their youthful days. Picture them posting along under the tall poplars, beside the broad canal, or quitting their quaint old berline, glad to be rid of the jingling bells which animated their sturdy roans, and how the stolid countenance of the burly postilions are lighted up with unwonted smiles at the unlimited

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faro which the glittering gratuity opens in perspective, and over which mysterious tales were unfolded below stairs, concerning the great lord's peregrinations. Let us compare notes with you, young Sir Roger, over your new-found dish, and that particular *cru* you had speedily learned to love so well. What did you think of those old town halls, those honest Flemish countenances which greeted your arrival under the massive portals? Your time and means were not ill bestowed to shed such enduring lustre on the fame of that old England which recalls your worthy names. We would like you to repeat one of those pleasant reminiscences of the far off countries you interested your rural tenants with at the annual rent or sheep-shearing feast, and, doubtless, on the same topic delighted their womankind, with their flaxen-haired little children you loved so dearly to pat and caress. Did you then imagine that the host of your youth was also recounting, in his own rich tongue, that tongue that Henri Conscience, the Edgeworth of Belgium, has saved from oblivion, to humble but sympathetic groups, the munificience, the nobleness of heart, of the young Englishman who honoured his hostelry on his continental tour, the influence of which has lasted so many generations; and although neither yourself nor your worthy compeers bequeathed us your more enduring lands, appurtenances, and chattels, we honour and bless your memory for that sterling reputation you so worthily inaugurated on our national behalf.

Belgium is a staunch little old country, it has been buffetted about by the battledores of good and ill fortune, but it refuses to sink, or even permanently to retrograde. Unlike Greece, Italy, or Spain, although its cities have lost their commanding influence and importance as the great centres of the commercial world, it rises Phœnix-like from the ashes of decay, and declines to be either despised or ignored. We talk much of the sufferings of our English ancestors for the sake of their religious convictions—a true test of a country's stamina—and yet Motley, the great American historian, clearly shows that this unassuming little nation has suffered a thousand fold more than ourselves. What English heart would not beat with

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dismay if Belgium were robbed of one jot or tittle of her present hard-earned liberty and independence. We are one in our aspirations for the good of our fellows, and they have a sympathetic feeling with our civil and religious liberties, with our constitutional government, our national character; they aspire, in fact, to row in the same boat with us, and although not classed amongst the Great Powers, they have no mean feeling of jealous inferiority. Their freedom and resources induce a general independency of spirit, and although strangers may bring more wealth to their moderate sized coffers, and are naturally welcomed accordingly, they are far from being dependant on them alone, as is the case in many places of fashionable resort on the Continent, where one sometimes finds that however readily the stranger's gold is snapped at, and in spite of the benefits it confers on the trade of the locality, there is an under current of jealous feeling against its possessor, who is, of course, supposed to be a millionaire, to be plucked for his wealth, and ridiculed for his nationality, more particularly, if having only a moderate income, he seeks to get a fair market value for his money. There is a reciprocity of social, commercial and political interest between England and Belgium, mutually advantageous, which has proved of great value to both countries in the past, and is a hopeful augury for the future. It is a material guarantee in securing the balance of power in Europe, and its import can scarcely be over-rated. The King's partiality for England and the English is well known, and his subjects have shown how well they can treat us, as witness the reception of the mayors and volunteers. During the visit of the latter in 1866 and 1873, nearly every private house was thrown open, and champagne was made not only the *vin d'honneur* but the *vin ordinaire* for the occasion; to be sure the *gardes civiques* were afterwards repaid in a magnificent manner by Her Majesty, and a few other notabilities, but a return visit to England was not bargained for, or even entered into question at that time; and although their reception was very grand, at Brussels it was a hearty family greeting, and only to be compared to a social gathering of brethren; in fact, as in deed, from the King to the Bourgeois, there

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was a friendly rivalry in entertaining their guests, and whatever difference of opinion may exist respecting the advisability of continuing these fraternising but expensive visits, few of the guests of that year in which they were inaugurated at Brussels, will cease to recall to mind their cordial reception. A well conducted Englishman is always politely received, and generally, fairly treated throughout this industrious country; and although petty grievances may occasionally arise—here, as elsewhere—the great body of this artistic and intelligent people is for us, and with us entirely; and not unfrequently submits to whims and eccentricities on our part, which would be less indulgently received elsewhere.

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BELGIAN SHOPKEEPERS.

Cash payment exacted from strangers—Their reasons for this.

ONE must not be too hard on Belgian tradesmen for any want of confidence that may be occasionally shewn by them in giving credit to strangers. It is a rule with the majority of them to expect cash and they generally send the note receipted, with the goods supplied. This may be a different system to what you are accustomed to at home; but we are bound to say a word in their favour. Whatever may be your position, or even prospects, you may possibly be a stranger here; and they, as foreigners, whose ideas seldom expand beyond their daily vocations, can scarcely be expected to be acquainted with either. Their confidence has also occasionally been seriously abused by a very different class of visitors, who take every advantage of their credulity, and trade upon their countrymen's honorable name. It is a rule to buy and sell on a very limited credit system, so far as the strictly local producer or merchant is concerned, but naturally a fair amount of credit is always obtainable from tradesmen to whom a family is properly recommended by their agent or friends.

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UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS.

Remarks on the unreasonable Expectations of some visitors—Belgium a prosperous kingdom—Its comparative freedom from debt—Frugality of the Labouring Classes.

THE moment some English people arrive in a foreign country, that moment they expect to find an immense difference in the cost of the necessaries of life, to what they have been accustomed to pay in their own, in return for the great sacrifice they consider themselves to be making by going to reside abroad. With such, one can have no patience. The advantages this country offers are pretty generally understood, and we have also attempted to generalize them here, and to give as concise an explanation of them as possible, and none of its disadvantages have been wittingly lost sight of; at the same time it must be fully understood that Belgium is an exceedingly prosperous little kingdom. Its national debt appears to be simply a mortgage on its prosperous state railroads, canals, and other properties; and if one does not find such colossal private fortunes as in England, there is, nevertheless, a well-to-do population who can afford to live well and pay a fair price for what they stand in need of. The labouring classes, if they earn lower wages, are contented with humbler fare than our own, and the eye is never shocked by such abject poverty so distressing to witness in our own country. The better classes will often step in and pay the price of an article, or the rent of a house, which a stranger considers exorbitant; it is therefore as well to take things as we find them and not shame one's country by being too unreasonable. The gentleman who accepts a tenant for his house in the West End at ten or twenty guineas a week, must not grumble at being asked half that sum for equally as good a house on a fashionable Boulevard at Brussels. It is perfectly admissable to obtain it as cheap as possible, but not to represent it as extravagantly dear, because it cannot be had for little or nothing.

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REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS.

Within three days—Witnesses—Penalties for neglect—Particulars required—No fees charged.

THE birth of every child in Belgium must be registered within three days, at the police court of the district in which the parents are domiciled. This must be done by its father, accompanied by two persons as witnesses, or in his absence, by the doctor, nurse, or whoever assisted, and in default each person is liable to a fine of sixteen to three hundred francs, and from six days to six months' imprisonment. The year, day, hour, and place of birth is stated, with the sex, christian, and surname of the child, and the names of the parents and witnesses, with their profession and domicile. A medical man, deputed by the authorities, calls to verify the child's existence, sex, and age. The witnesses to a declaration of a birth or death may be of either sex, and no fees are charged for registration.

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REGISTRATION OF DEATHS.

Certificate—The Undertaker's duties—Personal Property of Deceased protected by seals affixed by the "Juge de Paix."

NO interment is permitted without a certificate, which is given after the expiration of twenty-four hours. Two persons are required to make this declaration at the Hotel de Ville, or Maison Communale of the district; the corpse is also visited by a public medical officer. The formality attending the registration of a death and obtaining the burial certificate is usually undertaken by the person charged with the management of the funeral. When the deceased leaves property, the *Juge de paix* affixes seals thereon, which cannot be removed until three days from the day of the burial, or from the time of their being affixed, and only by the *Juge de paix* on a formal demand being made by the parties interested, in person or by proxy, to take possession.

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MARRIAGES.

Formalities enforced on the Marriage of British Subjects abroad.

A MARRIAGE between British subjects abroad is valid in England when solemnised at the British Embassy, or consulate, or according to the established forms of the country they inhabit. In the former case, one of the parties is required to make an affidavit of their age before the Consul, who will give them full particulars how to proceed. In the latter, certain formalities are required by the Belgian law, consisting of publication at the district court, declaration of consent of natural or legal guardians, proof of legal age, testimony of witnesses, etc. These requirements may be easily ascertained by applying to the proper authorities, so a relation of them here is scarcely called for.

It is advisable to draw particular attention to what is here written. A lady of position has, of course, friends who are acquainted with such matters, but in the event of this falling into the hands of any English person who is unacquainted with the Belgian laws concerning marriage, and as so many of our fair young compatriots come and settle here, it is of the greatest importance that they should understand that the marriage laws are by no means so simple as in England, and they must *in all cases* consult the Consul or some lawyer of position they can trust—otherwise they may find to their own and families' cost, that although a simple English form of marriage between English people may be safe enough wherever it takes place—but with a Belgian or other foreigner it is surrounded with difficult formalities which are of the most serious importance; and it is absolutely necessary for them to take legal advice on the subject. If not, they may, and in all probability will, have cause to regret it for the rest of their lives.

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THE BELGIAN COURT.

Popularity of the Royal Family—Court Attractions—Previous Domestic Sorrows succeeded by Great Happiness—The Comte de Flandre.

IT is no exaggeration to say that there is not a Royal Family on the Continent which enjoys half so much popularity amongst English people as the Belgian of Léopold the Second, the accomplished son of the sagacious founder of the present dynasty, who lives in the hearts of his people of every grade, from the mansion to the cottage. One can scarcely feel too sanguine of the happy results which are likely to attend this country by his reign, if a long life be vouchsafed him, and should European political complications leave him and his consort undisturbed to the performance of their peaceful routine of state duties and pleasures, in the discharge of which they are not unmindful. In the meridian of their days, and having inherited immense private wealth, they have raised their court to an enviable reputation, and made it one of the most attractive in Europe. The late king was too great a sufferer during the last few years of his reign to care much for the duties imposed on royalty, but the court balls now form a great attraction to English visitors; they are freely thrown open to all who are included in the list sent in from the Embassy, and on these occasions English gentlemen meet with great respect, and ladies never fail to engage the special admiration and polite attention of the Belgian aristocracy. Since their accession to the throne, domestic afflictions at one time tended to limit the gaieties of the court; first by the sad fate of Maximilian, which shattered the mind of his widow, the Princess Charlotte; and then as troubles only come in battallions, by the death of Léopold's only son, so young, so promising, and whose lingering sufferings embittered his early loss. The hearts that bled for the

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troubles of this amiable King and Queen, were not confined to his countrymen, for all nations sympathised with the monarch merged in the man, and no one, in high position, has a juster claim to be considered the first gentleman of the period, Let us hope that the clouds which so long overcast the happiness of both have been finally dispelled and their heavy shadows succeeded by a long, bright and shiny day. The recent happy marriages of the two eldest Princesses, one to a Prince of the family house of Coburg; the other to the talented heir to the throne of the great Austrian Empire, must have done much to assuage the great grief of the august parents, to which we, perhaps, ought scarcely to allude after the lapse of some years. One can easily understand how irreparable that loss must be to the heart of a King who will not allow his hand to sign the death warrant of the greatest criminal, or even his coachman to use a whip to his horses.

According to the *Salic* law, the Comte de Flandre is heir presumptive to the throne, and by his marriage with a princess of Hohenzollern, his son, Prince Baudouin-Léopold, a fine young fellow now in his fifteenth year, will, it is to be trusted, prevent the dynasty of this amiable and distinguished royal family from being extinguished.

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THE LATE AND PRESENT ENGLISH EMBASSY.

The new Minister—Expectations—The advantage of having a Genial Minister.

AT the time the first edition of our *Guide* was issued, Mr. Lumley had been recently appointed to succeed the late Lord Howard de Walden, and it is now with mingled sentiments of regret and satisfaction to the English community that he is

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called away to the higher post of honor as Ambassador at Rome. He is himself succeeded here by Sir Edward Malet, K.C.B., who has recently gained so much distinction in Egypt. He is no stranger here, as we remember him an *attaché* to the embassy, when he was a smart young man in the diplomatic service. All classes of English society here thoroughly respect the representative of their Queen and country, and much as they were pleased to see that the merits of their late friend and chief had enabled him to mount another rung of the ministerial ladder, they were not unmindful of his past services, and publicly testified to him their appreciation of his hospitality and courteous conduct during his residence among them, and their great regret at his departure. Sir John Saville Lumley's popularity will not lessen the welcome accorded to his successor —as he is known to be a gentleman highly distinguished and of genial disposition. We are, therefore, confident that his saloons will be equally as free as his predecessor's were, and that we shall not have to say with Hamlet "We ne'er shall look upon his like again." It is highly necessary in a city like Brussels, where the English society is of no little importance, that its leader should show a due appreciation of his lighter duties; discrimination must of course be made, and our government may not be so liberal in these matters as some others; but we opine that the representative of a great and rich nation ought to be not only empowered, but enjoined to throw open the embassy doors on a very liberal scale, and exert its influence in order to make the visit of his fellow citizens of good class, as agreeable as possible. If our present anticipations should be verified, Brussels will still continue popular as a favourite rendezvous for the best classes of English society. Sir Henry Barron, Bart., the chief secretary, is we note, advanced to the post of minister at Stuttgardt.

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ENGLISH CONSUL.

The British Vice-Consul—His duties—Authority—Qualifications.

MR. MALTBY, in the Rue d'Edimbourg, acts as Her Majesty's vice-consul at Brussels, and is the proper person to apply to witness your signature to any deeds, powers of attorney, or other legal acts, by which your identity has to be guaranteed. Englishmen are justly proud of their country's superiority, but some are in consequence too apt to invest her representative with more authority than he really possesses; thus, in local grievances, although always ready to assist his compatriots to the full extent of his power (and he is bound to watch over the commercial interests of his country, and protect his countrymen in distress) still, although he may advise, he is often only able to assist you in his capacity as a lawyer well acquainted with the Belgian code. As Consul, he can do nothing in some cases; should you therefore feel compelled to seek his advice, take your stand rather on the laws of the country you inhabit for the time being than on those which govern your own. Considering the numerous and diversified appeals which are made to him in his capacity as Consul his office can be no sinecure; it is most cordially hoped that you may not feel yourself sufficiently aggrieved to stand in need of his aid, and that the information given in this little volume will make you acquainted with a great many of the local usages and customs, you are thereby more likely to keep out of the meshes of the law.

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AMERICAN MINISTER AND CONSULS.

THE American Minister, like our own, is a fashionable appendage to the society of his compatriots residing here, but when Americans need official assistance or advice of any description at Brussels, they may be congratulated in finding in their Vice-Consul, Mr. Stein, a gentleman, and who at the same time is thoroughly acquainted with all commercial matters, which naturally endears him to the hearts of his inventative and money-making countrymen.

This Consulship, unlike our own, is very properly a salaried one, and the United States Government fixes the tariff of official fees, which are credited to their own National Exchequer.

HON. NICHOLAS FISH,
Minister of the United States,
Rue Belliard, 43.
Office hours, 10 to 1 o'clock.

COL. JOHN WILSON,
U. S. Consul,
Place du Trône, 1.
Office hours, 10 to 3 o'clock.

A. J. STEIN, ESQ.,
U. S. Vice-Consul,
Rue Berckmans, 116.

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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES.

English Club—The "Cercle des Nobles"—The Grande Harmonie—Character of Belgian Societies.

THERE is an English club at 40 Rue du Trône. It is conducted on purely social and non-political principles, and is under the management of a President and a Committee of five, one of whom acts as Hon. Secretary.

High play is not allowed by the bye-laws, and the following are the fees for admittance:—

The annual subscription for members residing in Brussels is 125 francs, but if residing at a distance of three miles, 50 francs.

Temporary members pay for six months, 75 francs; three months, 50 francs; one month, 20 francs; one week, six francs. The club is open from nine a.m. to one a.m.

The Hon. Sec. is P. J, Thompson, Esq., M.R.C.S.

A few English gentlemen are also members of the *Cercle des Nobles*, and one or two other aristocratic Belgian societies.

The Grande Harmonie is a society also open to English families. It was at one time composed of six or eight hundred members, which have probable since increased in number, belonging to the nobility and substantial merchants. *The Times* and other English journals are taken in; the annual fee for membership is eighty francs; no entrance fee is charged, and each new member must be proposed and seconded by actual members, of whom several are English.

There are other similar societies, which are exceedingly popular, but as their titles imply, their amusements have a very musical tendency; the numerous concerts, fêtes, balls, and theatrical representations given by them are

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intended for their families' enjoyment, and the value of membership is better appreciated by such middle-class families who wish more particularly to identify themselves with the recreations of the native inhabitants of Brussels. It must be understood that there is less exclusiveness in society here, for although some of the oldest, richest, and titled families belong to these clubs, it is not thought objectionable to admit respectable persons of an inferior social status. The concerts and balls which are thrown open to the general public, afford great pleasure to strangers by the high-class character of the entertainment, both as regards the talent displayed and the manner in which they are conducted.

There is a class at Brussels of the St. John's Ambulance Association, of which Mrs. Massy Dawson is Secretary and Treasurer.

An English Amateur Choral Society meet for class singing at 6 Rue Thérésienne on Friday evenings. Capt. Cunynghame is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

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EXCHANGE.

Exchange generally in favour of England—Drafts on London - Gold—Bank of England Notes—Country Cheques—Silver.

THE rate of exchange is generally in the favour of England, as the buyer here has to pay, on an average, about one per cent. additional for the same, the exact rate depending on the existing state of supply and demand; and after allowing the banker a fair profit, say of one half per cent., the English visitor may nearly always dispose of his re-

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mittances to some advantage. Cheques on a London bank when the drawer is known is an advantageous method of obtaining supplies, as it entails no trouble on himself, and they are equally as convenient to commercial men having business relations with England. Gold is less required than paper money, and a difference of five centimes per sovereign exists in favour of drafts, Bank of England notes, and other circulating securities. Country cheques and silver are only usually taken at par, however favourable the rate of Exchange may happen to be, the latter you may have to dispose of at a loss.

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CARRIAGE HIRE.

Charges—Style—Tariff.

CARRIAGES may be hired at rates which contrast advantageously with the charge of a London job-master. A carriage and pair costs about four francs fifty centimes per hour (an engagement for not less than two hours required). The turn-out from a first-class stable is very creditable, the carriages being light and handsome; coachmen in clean and becoming liveries, and the horses well conditioned, useful animals, if inferior in point of breed and speed to those of private gentlemen. On the whole, the distinctive stamp which generally marks the hired conveyance is, as much as possible, avoided. The tariff of the best establishments is given in the Appendix.

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CABS.

WE hesitate to say much about this, at the same time, not unimportant subject. Our municipal friends here do not seem to settle down on comfortable terms with their cab or *voiture* proprietors. The company to whom a monopoly was recently given and who drove off the scene all the old dirty boxes on four wheels, are now in liquidation, but we do not anticipate that there will be any very material alterations in the charges allowed to be made by their successors, as the town authorities stand no nonsense in this direction. We will give the latest actual charges in the Appendix, and we can only advise you to ask for the tariff of the coachman when you engage him; he is bound to furnish this, and it is as well not to pay him more unless you like to give him a *pourboire* for civility. At the same time if he cheats you, which be it remarked, is far less likely to occur here than at Antwerp, by all means give yourself the trouble to report him. He is duly paid for his services, and has no right to levy "black-mail" on strangers. Besides, few of them will ever put themselves out of the way to catch a train if you happen to be pressed for time. In fact, the ordinary Belgian *Jehu* is a very stolid machine. He, his horse, and his cab, are accustomed to a very slow pace, with which the steep hills in Brussels have perhaps something to do—but which neither extra grease to the wheels, whip to the horse, or beer to the driver, will materially affect—therefore, although your distance may be short, always allow yourself plenty of time to cover it.

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TO INSURE AN EARLY CAB IN THE MORNING.

Uncertainity of Night Cabs—Double Fares charged after eleven p.m. —Early Conveyances not to be depended on unless engaged at a respectable Job Master's.

THE supply of night cabs is too uncertain to depend on, and double fares are also charged between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.; consequently, when you wish to leave Brussels by an early train, do not depend on being able to find a conveyance to the station, nor on a driver's promise to come and take you up, for there is not much reliance to be placed in their word on these occasions; it is therefore advisable to order a fly to be sent by a job master who is known to be punctual, and who is also accustomed to supply you with carriages at other times; or in the winter season, especially if it happens to be a sharp frosty morning, he will not, perhaps, care to send out a man and horse to earn a few francs.

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WAREHOUSING OF LUGGAGE.

Avoid travelling with unnecessary Luggage—It can be Warehoused through your Agent Formalities to be observed in sending it across the Frontier.

IN the event of your leaving Brussels for the summer months, with the intention of returning at a future period, it is better to leave your heavy luggage behind, in order to avoid the expense and trouble of its carriage. In this case, as there are no regular warehouses for its storage, you should apply to your agent, who will take care of the same on your account, or recommend you some one to do so. He would also understand the necessary formalities to be observed should you require it to be forwarded to you at any time into another country. It is necessary to give him a declaration of the contents and value of the goods, without which they cannot be sent across the frontier, such formalities being strictly exacted.

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THE BRUSSELS CRICKET CLUB.

Chief Supporters — Playing Ground — Municipal Grant — Athletic Sports — Management — Annual Subscription — Introduction— Lawn Tennis — The Origin of the Club.

THIS Club, started in 1863, affords great amusement and exercise to the English residents and visitors at Brussels. It is composed chiefly of the pupils from the schools of the Revds. Messieurs Jenkins and Harlock, and their parents and friends. The Burgomaster kindly grants permission for the members of the club to play in a shady spot in the beautiful Bois de la Cambre, about half-an-hour's walk from the town. This permission is greatly appreciated, as showing the good wishes of the civic authorities towards their English visitors. Athletic sports also take place occasionally, which considerably enhance the popularity of the club, and add to the pleasure of the younger members of the English community. It is under the able management of a most indefatigable secretary, Mr. W. Heyn, and a committee of gentlemen. The Revds. J. C. Jenkins and A. K. Harlock are both good amateurs players, and fortunately for young gentlemen under their charge, staunch advocates of our genuine old sports and pastimes. The subscription is ten francs per annum, payable at Messrs. Bigwood and Morgan's bank; entrance may be obtained by an introduction through a member of the committee. Several sets of lawn tennis are also on the ground, in order to provide the ladies with their favourite summer pastime. English families should by all means join this club.

It is to be regretted by all admirers of our old national and manly game that cricket is too much discarded for the more effeminate game of lawn tennis, which is scarcely so well adapted to develop the muscles of the British youths.

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As there is some difference of opinion how this club was originated, and as it was recently ascribed to Colonel Renny-Tailyeur, we will subjoin a copy of the first memorandums, with a list of the original members. We cannot forget that it was at the suggestion of the writer of this, that Colonel Goodwyn and the Rev. C. E. Jenkins took up the question, and the following *feeler* was sent to the principal English residents :—

CRICKET.

The English residents in Brussels are invited to attend at No. 17, Rue des Petits Carmes, on Wednesday next, the 25th inst., at half-past Two o'clock, to consider the propriety of establishing a cricket club.

(Signed) C. E. JENKINS, M A.,
A. G. GOODWYN, Lieut.-Col. R.E.
J. R. SCOTT.

20th Feby., 1863.

After the meeting the following was issued—we have both the originals before us at the moment.

BRUSSELS CRICKET CLUB.

At a meeting of English residents in Brussels, on the 25th February 1863, a statement to the following effect was considered.

A suitable field, within 7 minutes walk of the Porte de Hal, has been offered for cricket, on fair terms; and, although a toll of 2 centimes is demanded for passing through the Mill premises, to which it lies immediately contiguous, this, as securing privacy, is hardly a disadvantage.

	Francs.
Hire of field.....	200
Bats, balls and stumps.....	150
Second hand marquee, or an awning say	100
Preparation and care of ground	150
Total	600

The minimum expense of a season's operations is here estimated with sufficient accuracy. The amount there shown, 600 francs, will probably be exceeded.

The meeting having voted Colonel Goodwyn into the Chair and having given a general assent to the above, proceeded to pass the following resolutions.

1. That a Club be formed, to be called the Brussels Cricket Club.

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2. That all English at present resident in Brussels be invited to become members

3. That the management of the affairs of the Club and audit of its expenditure be instrusted to a Committee of five, including a Secretary having a vote; the Committee and Secretary to be nominated by the members at large, to whom they will be responsible. Not less than three members of the Committee shall form a quorum. No disbursement unsanctioned by the Committee shall be made.

4. That members be enrolled on their simple application, if such be made to the Secretary within the next fortnight. Subsequently, the Committee will decide on such applications.

5. That visitors be admitted by the committee as Honorary Members (without votes) on paying a subscription of 5 francs a month.

6. That any member may invite a friend to the cricket ground, but may not engage him to play to the exclusion of another member. Such invitation cannot extend beyond a week; after which any person desiring to play can only do so as a member.

7. That any decision of the Committee is liable to be referred to the votes of the Club at large, on the written requisition of five members.

8. That the season's subscription shall not exceed twenty francs. Half that amount is due on becoming a member and the remainder in moieties as the Committee may deem necessary.

9. That the Committee at once engage ground and make such other subsidiary arrangements as may be necessary. Also that they enter into communication with the working men in the neighbourhood of Brussels with a view of securing them as members.

The following gentlemen then enrolled their names as members.

A. G. Goodwyn.
J. R. Scott.
C. E. Jenkins.
J. Thompson.
T. Rhodes.
H. Joy.
H. D. Addison.
G. C. Talbot.
E. G. Holt.
J. C. Jenkins.
C. A. Klug.
W. S. Taylor.
A. Strachey.
J. W. Fox.
W. Horton.
—. Lucas.
H. T. Bennett.
W. A. Lindsay.
E. Tarleton.
P. Trower.
G. B. Oughterson.
P. W. Russell.
G. Webster.
C. Craven.
—. Mungeam.
R. Garnett.
E. Barnett.

And elected the undermentioned Committee of Management.

C. E. Jenkins.
J. R. Scott.
H. Joy.
H. D. Addison.

A. G. Goodwyn, Secretary.

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Resolved further:

10. That these proceedings be printed and circulated with a view to obtain other members.

The meeting then separated after a vote of thanks to the Chair.

A. G. Goodwyn, Lieut. Colonel R.E. (Bengal),
Secretary.

25th February 1863.
17 Rue des Petits Carmes.

Young Mr. Renny-Tailyeur, the great Kentish cricketer came to Brussels later on with his father's family, and was a student here. We also remember the great difficulty we had personally in finding the ground, which is now all covered by the buildings adjacent to the Station du Midi—there existed also at that time a very strong team of English cricketers employed at the fabrique at Loth.

It may, perhaps, be permitted to the writer to recall to the loving memory of those who were acquainted with them, the names of the Rev. C. E. Jenkins and Lt.-Col. A. G. Goodwyn, and the only excuse he can plead for so doing is the tribute of respect he himself owes—those rarely gifted men who were both taken away so untimely and in the meridian of life. They were at that period amongst the leading spirits of English society here, more particularly he who had passed his life at Brussels—some years as their pastor and friend, and who possessed so much influence with all classes of society. More especially was he kind to the English poor of Brussels, and often have we heard of his generous deeds which were but little known or whispered in general. They were both men of great and earnest ability for all good works. Colonel Goodwyn (promoted to be Major-General at the time) was a soldier of the Havelock type—an engineer officer of merit, whose sons are now far advanced in the official ranks of the army; and so long as there lives anyone to speak of the name of Mr. Edward Jenkins, so long will the loss of a good, faithful, and true-hearted English christian gentleman be deplored.

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EVENING PARTIES, ETC.

Pleasant Socialities – Well carried out—Example set by old Residents.

FEW families leave Brussels without recalling to mind the pleasant round of private parties which are every season there in full sway. Quiet and unobtrusive as they generally are, with no pretention to rival the brilliant balls and receptions at Paris; we are, nevertheless, glad to chronicle the existence of these amenities of English life at Brussels which tend so much to dissipate any *ennui*, and what is lost in cost and splendour is more than compensated for by the taste and skill of the Belgian *fournisseurs*, and the genuine affable feeling which is apparent is such gatherings here. No little praise is due to some of the older residents, for the example they set in rendering such *soirées* available for introducing families to each other, which makes their stay however short exceedingly pleasant and agreeable.

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SOCIETY.

Introduction may be obtained through the Resident Clergy.

THOSE families of respectability who are unprovided with letters of introduction to the Ambassador or other influential personage, may congratulate themselves on finding such mediums rendered almost unnecessary by the considerate attention of the resident clergymen. Any respectable family can, through their politeness be speedily introduced into congenial society, to which they might possibly be otherwise too long a time strangers.

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ARREST FOR DEBT.

ARREST for debt is now abolished in this country, but a foreigner about to leave in debt, is liable to have his goods or any luggage detained by his creditor, on a judge's warrant.

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"THE BELGIAN NEWS."

THIS is the only English newspaper printed in Belgium, and serves as a useful and entertaining medium of general information. It is under very able editorial magagement, and unlike the majority of continental papers, is printed on good paper with English type and by English compositors. Belgian newspaper proprietors commence with indifferent materials in the first instance, and do not seem to bear in mind the necessity of replenishing their worn-out metal and machinery, so that it is frequently impossible to read their articles, if ever so interesting. We were long entirely without any literary medium of our own, which with a large and influential colony such as Brussels possesses, is an absolute necessity. The smallest country town in Great Britain, or its colonies, has frequently more than one—even our distant colony of New Zealand is noted for the number and quality of its journals, and in the north of England the London daily press is practically ignored by the general public. Those who have resided for any length of time in Brussels must see how convenient is this weekly epitome of our doings and requirements, and how thoroughly it serves the purpose of chronicling the daily movements of English society in Belgium, and all matters concerning the Church and Embassy. The sports and pastimes of young England are duly noted. The principal occurrences of Belgian life are set before us in our own language, and no subject which can interest us is neglected. Although Brussels is well catered for, Antwerp, Bruges, and other towns in Belgium are not forgotten. The leading articles are written in a Conservative, though broad Catholic spirit, offensive to no political party or sect. The sporting correspondent has missed his *locale* and ought to be in Fleet Street or the Strand. We get translated columns of the

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old Flemish legends; intensely interesting, yet otherwise unknown to English people, If the proprietor of *The Belgian News* would accept our recommendation, he would have the simple homely tales of the late Hendrick Conscience* translated into English for the solace of our ensuing winter evenings. At any rate we trust he will succeed in making it the Gallignani of Belgium. We have said this much in a disinterested spirit, and as strangers to its management, but we can thoroughly understand and appreciate the value of a local medium of communication such as this, more particularly away from home, and we think our readers will be glad that we have brought it under their notice.

* Tales as simple, as truthful, and as feeling, as those Miss Edgeworth gave us long ago of the Irish peasantry.

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ROUTES FROM LONDON TO BRUSSELS

(AND VICE VERSA).

Via Dover and Calais.

THE quickest and surest way, without losing time in bad weather, of reaching Brussels from London is *via* Dover and Calais, either by the South Eastern mail trains, or London, Chatham, and Dover line; by the former you start from Charing Cross or Cannon Street, by the latter from the Victoria or Ludgate Hill Stations; and the best plan is to choose that station for your starting point which may be most convenient to your residence. There are three fixed services through to Brussels, *via* Calais and two *via* Ostend; and the hours of departure and the time occupied in the journey are nearly alike. The same continental mail trains from London to Dover convey passengers for both the Calais and Ostend boats, with the exception of the special service train leaving at 10 a.m., for which a boat for Calais only is in attendance. The morning trains leave London about half-past seven and ten o'clock, arriving at Dover in about an hour and three quarters. The night trains leave about eight o'clock; they all convey first and second class passengers. The boats start immediately the mails are shipped, consequently passengers should loose no time in getting on board. The trains run on to the pier alongside the boats; do not therefore alight at the town station at Dover. An interpreter accompanies each train, and all the officials are most attentive to prevent mistakes. The Calais boats are not often deterred by the weather from putting out to sea, and perform the passage across the Channel in an hour and a quarter. The night train for Brussels starts a few minutes after the one for Paris, about half-past twelve, arriving there at six a.m. By the daily train you arrive

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about five p.m. Should you not book through and register your luggage, for which to holders of through tickets no extra charge is made, it will be examined at both the French and Belgian frontiers, unless you make a declaration of your destination at Calais, and for which a small fee is required, but very little trouble is under any circumstances occasioned here by the Custom officials.

In returning from Brussels, according to the present arrangement, the morning trains leave the Station du Midi at 7.43, and the evening one at 8.15, arriving respectively in London at 5.45 p.m. and 6.10 a.m. The special morning train leaves the Station du Midi at 10.32, arriving about 7.30. This, although the most certain route, as the boats are always put to sea when possible, is also the most expensive. The through fares are £2 11s. first class, and £1 18s. second class; return tickets, £3 17s. 9d. and £2 17s. 9d. A through ticket entitles a passenger to 56lbs. weight of luggage free of charge, and is available for one month and by any train, with liberty to stop at any of the principal towns *en route*. Baggage registered through to Brussels is examined there. In returning from Brussels to Charing Cross or Victoria Stations, it is examined on arrival there, and at Dover, if for Ludgate Hill or Cannon Street Stations. Should there not be sufficient first class accommodation on board the boats, fore cabin fares only are charged, and holders of first class tickets have the difference returned on board. Passengers who do not have their baggage registered are now charged for it on board.

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Via Dover and Ostend.

There are two fixed services by this direct route; morning and night. The trains leaving London and the boats Dover at the same time as for Calais. These boats carry the mails, and the *trajet* is usually performed in about four or five hours. Passengers who do not object to being two or three hours longer at sea than is required by way of Calais, will find this route a very pleasant one,

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more especially during the summer season, but when it is very rough they are not so hardy in putting out to sea as the Calais boats, or as they were when the service was performed under English management. New and more powerful boats are now added on this route, which ply during the day, but not always at night, and it is much to be regretted that the boats are not at once improved on, same as on the Calais route. It would then be the cheapest, quickest, and best route to London. For our own part, we prefer it to any others. The mail contract has now passed entirely over to the Belgian Government, owing to the lower rates at which they undertake the same.

SERVICES (according to the present arrangement):—

Leaving London, Charing Cross, Cannon Street, Victoria, and Ludgate Hill Stations about 7.40 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Leaving Dover, 9.30 a.m. and 10 p.m.
Leaving Ostend, 2.50 p.m. and 3.30 a.m.
Arriving at Brussels, 5.14 p.m. and 5.40 a.m.

Leaving Brussels, Station du Nord, 7.15 a.m.; Station Quartier Leopold, 8.5. a.m.; and 5.20 p.m. Station du Nord.
Leaving Ostend, 10.30 a.m. and 8.20 p.m.
Leaving Dover, 3.45 p.m., 1.55 a.m., and 4.15 a.m.
Arriving at London, 5.45 p.m., 3.45 a.m., and 6.10 a.m.

FARES.

London to Ostend, 1st class, £1 10s. 3d. (37fr. 95c.); 2nd class, £1 2s. 3d. (27fr. 70c.)
London to Brussels (Station du Nord), 1st class, £1 19s. 6d. (49fr. 50c.); 2nd class, £1 9s. (36fr. 35c.) To Station Quartier Leopold, 1st class, 49fr. 80c.; 2nd class, 36fr. 60c.
Boat fares only—from Dover to Ostend, 1st class, 9fr. 30c.; 2nd class, 6fr. 95c. Return fares, available for six days, 14fr. 85c. and 11fr. 15c.
56lbs. of baggage allowed. Through tickets available for one month.

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Via Antwerp—Per Baron Osy.

There are now many facilities afforded for reaching Brussels from London by the various routes; but at one time this well known Belgian boat was the most popular way of so doing. The travelling public are also apparently less exclusive in their patronage at the present day; and a journey thither no longer means a pleasant sail down the river on a Sunday morning; a capital dinner and a bottle of wine with a *bon vivant* Captain at the head of the table, and merrily reckless of the *mal de mer* to follow. Passengers are now more chary of their time and stewards' bills, which it must be remembered on any of the boats occupying much time in the voyage, form no unimportant item in one's travelling expenses. The *Baron Osy*, nevertheless, is too comfortable a vessel not to be able to command at all times a full share of patronage from those who choose this route. She leaves St. Katherine's wharf at twelve noon on Sunday, arriving at Antwerp the next morning, and returns at one p.m. on Wednesday.

FARES: To Antwerp, 1st class, £1 4s.; 2nd class, 16s. Steward's fees included.

Excursion tickets from Sunday to following Wednesday, single fares.

Children under ten years of age, half-price.

Return tickets available for one month are issued at £1 17s. and £1 4s. 6d.

AGENTS:—London: Arnatti and Harrison, 11 and 12, Great Tower Street, or at Old White Horse Cellars, Piccadilly. Antwerp: Messrs. Huysman and Bulcke. Brussels: Mons. Lelotte-Town, 88 Montague de la Cour.

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Via Antwerp, per General Steam Navigation Company's Boats.

Boats belonging to this company ply between London and Antwerp, and the days of departure from St. Katherine's wharf are Tuesdays and Saturdays at 3 p.m., arriving at Antwerp next morning; whence they make the

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return voyages on Tuesdays and Fridays, leaving there on Tuesday at 2 p.m. and Friday at 12 noon. You can book through to the following Towns at the fares given below, the tickets being available for one month from the date of issue:—

FARES:—From London to Antwerp, 1st class, 16s.; 2nd class, 11s. To Brussels, 1st class, 19s.; 2nd class, 13s. 6d. To Liege, 1st class, £1 3s. 4d.; 2nd class, 16s. 6d. Steward's fee included.

Return tickets to Antwerp and back, available for one month, £1 5s. and 17s.

50lbs. of luggage allowed free on the Belgian railway to holders of through tickets.

Carriages, two wheels, £3; ditto, four wheels, £4 4s.; horses, £3 3s.; dogs, 7s. 6d. each.

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Via Harwich and Antwerp, per Great Eastern Railway Company's Boats.

For tourists, this is a very convenient route to Brussels and the Continent.

The trains start from Liverpool Street Station daily (Sundays excepted) at 7.50 p.m., and arrive at the New Quay at Parkeston at 9.35, where the boats are drawn alongside. The new boats, such as the "Norwich," are commodiously fitted up, but some of the older boats which perform the winter service are less comfortable, and take longer time to perform the voyage. They leave Antwerp at 4.30 p.m. in the summer, and 1.30 p.m. in the winter. The time stated for arrival at Antwerp (10 a.m.) cannot be depended on, neither by this nor any other route to Antwerp, least of all in the winter.

FARES:—London to Antwerp, 1st class, £1 6s. 0d.; 2nd class, 15s. To Brussels, 1st class, £1 9s. 9d.; 2nd class, 17s. 11d.

Doncaster and the north may also be reached by this route, *via* "March" from Harwich.

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Via Ostend, per General Steam Navigation Company's Boats.

According to the present arrangement, these boats leave St. Katherine's Wharf every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday mornings, returning on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, the hours of departure being regulated by the tide, which can be ascertained at the Company's Offices, 71, Lombard Street, and 37, Regent Circus, Piccadilly, and for the return journey at 22, Galerie du Roi, Brussels, or on the Quay at Ostend. It is an economical way of reaching Ostend, whence the fares to Brussels are reasonable. The passage in fair weather takes about twelve hours, so that unless the boat leaves London early in the morning, there is the necessity for remaining the night at Ostend, as the last train for Brussels starts at six p.m.

FARES :—Chief Cabin, 15s.; fore cabin, 10s. Steward's fees included. Children under ten years, half-price.

Return tickets, available for one month, at about a fare and a half. Four wheel carriages, £2 2s.; two wheel carriages, £1 10s.; dogs, 5s. each; horses, £1 7s.; bicycles, 2s. 6d.

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Third Class Passengers—Via Dover.

Anyone wishing to avoid the long sea route on the cheapest scale should leave London by the early morning or evening train, 6s. 2½d., 3rd class, Dover to Ostend, 6fr. 95c. 2nd class; Ostend to Brussels, 4fr. 65c.; fare through, about 15s. 6d. The only loss of time incurred is by leaving London two hours earlier than is necessary by the mail. The fare is taken on board the boat, and you re-book at Ostend on to Brussels, so the greatest stranger need anticipate no difficulty.

We mention this plan for servants and others to whom economy is an object.

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SUMMARY OF ROUTES FROM LONDON TO BRUSSELS, AND VICE VERSA.

Via Dover and Calais, every morning and night.

Via Dover and Ostend, every morning and night.

Via Antwerp, from London direct, on Sundays per Baron Osy: from Antwerp on Wednesdays.

Via Antwerp, from London direct, every Tuesday and Saturday, per General Steam Navigation Company's Boats, returning every Tuesday and Friday.

Via Harwich and Antwerp, from Liverpool Street Station, Great Eastern Railway, and Antwerp, every day, Sundays excepted.

Via Ostend, from London direct, per General Steam Navigation Company's Boats, every Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, according to the tide, returning every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The particulars of these routes have been already given, it only remains necessary to add, that the Antwerp route is the best to take when there is very much luggage, owing to the expense attending the transport of the same on the continental railways; and this route is also better adapted for children, and it is less fatiguing than the long ride by rail. The time occupied in the voyage depends very much on the state of the weather, but it averages from eighteen to twenty hours; the sea voyage occupying about one third of the time, the Thames and river Scheldt dividing the remainder. The latter river is occasionally, in very severe winters, frozen over, when the service is interrupted. Foggy weather is also a great

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impediment in navigating the Scheldt, and it is not unusual for the boats to arrive very late in the day during the winter season. The Calais boats always put to sea when possible, and this route is in consequence more to be depended on than any other when time is a consideration. Owing to the careful and experienced officers, under whose command these different services are performed, it is very seldom that any accident takes place, and one is accustomed to feel quite as safe in crossing the channel as on any railroad in England. In fine weather the journey during the day, *via* Dover and Ostend, will be found very cheap, expeditious and pleasant, and if you take this route, it is a good plan to send all your very heavy baggage through to your destination by another way as directed in another part.

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ROUTES BETWEEN BELGIUM AND OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE CONTINENT.

Travellers proceeding to or from Belgium and other places on the Continent will find it necessary to consult Bradshaw, or other professed Continental Railway Guides as to the most direct routes.

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RAILWAY COMMUNICATION AND FARES.

Service—Officials—Carriages—Special Compartments for Ladies travelling without protection—Smoking Carriages—Accidents of rare occurrence—Speed—Guard's visit between Stations—Fares—Booking Luggage—Special Carriages for Invalids—Dogs—Horses—Travellers to or from France.

THE Railway communication in Belgium is on a very satisfactory scale. The service is prompt and regular, and the officials form a well organised civil body of men. No fault can be found with the carriages, which are kept clean and tidy. Special compartments in both the 1st and 2nd class carriages are reserved for ladies, and smoking carriages are attached to each train. Accidents even of the most trifling description are of very rare occurrence. Although the express trains do not travel so quickly as our "Flying Scotchman" and others, they go at least as fast as the most important personage need wish when taking his leisure on the Continent. The guard visits each carriage at frequent intervals and whilst the train is in motion, which adds very considerably to the safety of travelling by rail, although highly dangerous to himself, and is a practice which must eventually be discontinued.

With regard to the fares, we believe them to be lower than in any other kingdom, as will be seen by reference to the tariff.

Travellers with luggage must have it weighed and paid for in good time before the departure of the train, as the office closes three minutes beforehand.

Return tickets are issued at reduced fares.

If a traveller rides in a class superior to that for which he has taken his ticket, or travels by an express train with a ticket for an ordinary one, he is charged the difference. If he travels without a ticket he is charged a fare and a half. Season tickets are also obtainable. Children under three years are not charged; under eight years they pay half-price.

Invalids may obtain a special compartment—containing

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a bed with appropriate furniture, by making an application to the *Chef de Station* at the Station du Nord, and on payment of a sum equivalent to eight 1st class tickets.

The Pullman Cars are attached to the Express International Trains.

Dogs are charged 3rd class fares, and have a special compartment in the luggage van. Horses are conveyed by luggage trains at a third (or less) of the charges made for the same by passenger trains. Small dogs may be taken into the compartment if enclosed in a basket, not exceeding in all 3 kilos in weight, a 3rd class ticket must be taken for it, and the consent of fellow passengers must be obtained.

Travellers proceeding to or from France have a right to the gratuitous transport of 25 kilos of baggage.

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TRANSPORT OF LUGGAGE.

High rates for personal luggage—Through tickets—Luggage on board the direct boats to Antwerp and Ostend Shipping luggage direct to Antwerp from the nearest British Port—The Hull boats—Clearing luggage at Antwerp Forwarding luggage by rail—*Grande* and *Petite Vitesse Tarif* Nos 1, 2, and 3—The weight required for each division—Expense saved in sending by *Petite Vitesse*—*Bureau Restant*—Postal notification of the arrival of Luggage—Warehousing at the Entrepôt—Charges of Carriage, etc., specified on the Notice Paper—*Prise à Domicile* or collection of Goods—The Notice required—Declaration—Sending Luggage across the Frontier—*Remise à Domicile* or delivery of Goods, and Rules attending the same—Branch Goods Offices.

AVOID being accompanied with more luggage than is actually necessary for your immediate requirements, when travelling by any of the continental railroads, where every pound you cannot carry in your hands is charged for at a high rate—unless between France and Belgium you possess a through ticket to or from England, when half-a-cwt. is allowed free; otherwise you will incur needless expense in its transit. Your

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starting point and the route you take must influence your disposition of the remainder. On board the Antwerp or Ostend boats direct from London by water, any quantity of luggage is allowed, or only a small extra charge is made when it exceeds the ordinary limits. This makes the route by Antwerp for a family, much less expensive than by Dover. Antwerp is also the nearest port to Brussels, and the distance it travels from thence to Brussels is inconsiderable. It is convenient, when practicable, to bring it with you, have it passed by the Custom officials, and then send it on by rail to your destination from the station at Antwerp. But starting from the north of England, Scotland, or Ireland, or should you take the mail route from London, considerable expense may be saved by shipping it direct by the steamer from the nearest port which is in communication with Antwerp. Dublin, Cork, Leith, Liverpool, Hull, and other ports have direct communication with Antwerp, either by steamer or sailing vessels. The Hull boats carry passengers, and this is also a route which admits of a material saving in expense to those, who coming from the north of England, do not object to the long sea voyage, but is more adapted for commercial men. The first class fare is 15s., and return tickets are issued at a fare and a half. The Great Eastern have now also organised a through route from the North, *via* Harwich. By bringing your luggage with you to Antwerp the shipping charges and freight are avoided, and if not of a nature to prevent its being passed through the Custom House, have it examined by the officers on board and clear it yourself at once. Should it be subject to duties, from which new comers may claim exemption as previously explained in the chapter relating to Custom House Formalities, it must be forwarded under official charge to your destination.

In forwarding luggage by rail, there are three divisions which the railway authorities specify, that all consignments must be classed under. These are *Grande Vitesse* (express) or Tariff No. 1 ; *Service accélere* or Tariff No. 2 ; and *Pétite Vitesse* or Tariff No. 3.

Small parcels under 10 kilos are forwarded by Tarif No. 1 (express).

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By Tariff No. 2 *(Grande Vitesse)* all goods up to 200 kilos.

Goods weighing over 200 kilos are usually forwarded by Tariff No. 3, at a cheaper rate, which classification is optional to the sender.

We must draw attention to the fact that a very considerable difference exists between the charges for goods weighing over 200 kilos when sent by Tariff No. 3, instead of by Tariff No. 2. It is consequently of importance to specify that all heavy goods should be sent by the former. A little more time is taken up in their transit by this service, but the delay is very trifling, and scarcely in accordance with the relative charges for the same. Again, the Tariff No. 2 is much cheaper than the charge made for the luggage that passengers take with them.

Should your future address be uncertain your luggage can be sent to any station directed *Bureau Restant*, where it will await your disposition.

The principal railroads belong to the State, and as these and the Post and Telegraph Offices are alike under the administration of the Government, any official communication is thereby materially expedited. Goods arriving in the country are transferred to the Entrepôt or Custom House at Brussels by rail, and a notice of the same is immediately brought by the postman of the district you inhabit; a notification to be acknowledged by signing the slip of paper attached, and returning it through him. To prevent mistakes a second is sent after the lapse of a few days, in the event of its not being reclaimed. To save the cost of warehousing it must be claimed within five days. The amount stated on the notice paper gives the charges attending the transmission to that point; carriage and any sum paid on by agents at time of shipment, &c.

Prise à Domicile—All goods collected by the State Railway, are charged 30 centimes per 100 kilos or under, and twenty-four hours' notice is required to be given in advance at one of the principal goods depôts, or an unsealed request may be posted to the *Chef de Station*—no stamp being necessary—stating precisely the number of packages to be sent for, name, address, and destination.

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To prevent a useless journey state the hour the packages will be ready, for if the notice be given before mid-day, they may possibly be called for the same day.

It is necessary to give a written declaration with all goods forwarded by rail, stating number of packages, contents, to whom dispatched, with name and address of the sender, and a written receipt for the same will be signed on presentation with the goods.

When sent across the frontier a more formal declaration called a *passavant* must be filled up—forms are given at the Goods Office on application.

Remise à Domicile.—Goods sent by Tariff No. 2 are sent off the same evening, if deposited one hour before departure, and are delivered within six hours of arrival at the other station. The hours of night are not counted. By Tariff No. 3, goods are despatched within 24 hours of receipt, and delivered within 24 hours of arrival at the other end, and a maximum of three days will not be exceeded.

Letters and packages sent express are delivered immediately on the arrival of the train up to 9 o'clock p.m. After which they are delivered between 7 and 8 a.m. the following morning during the summer season, and between 8 and 9 a.m. during the winter. The sender may assure their delivery the same evening after the arrival of any train, by writing this demand on the address, for which an additional charge of 25 centimes is made.

All parcels sent by Tariff No. 1 are dispatched by the first train, which leaves the station half-an-hour after being received.

The Branch Offices for the reception of luggage, parcels, &c., are situated at Brussels:—Nos. 16 and 18, Rue du Quesnoy (near the Madeleine Market); No 44, Rue des Chartreux; 196, Boulevard de Waterloo; 6, Boulevard de l' Entrepôt; 24, Rue de l' Astronomie; 9, Rue du Pepin (corner of the Boulevard de Waterloo); and Place de la Chapelle.

At Antwerp:—Place Verte.

The office hours are from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For scale of charges for conveyance of luggage see Appendix.

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POSTAL GUIDE.

THE postage of letters for the interior, if prepaid *(affranchiée)* is as follows :—

Under 15 grammes in weight (about ½ oz.)....10 centimes.
For every 15 grammes extra .....10 ,,

Postage Stamps of the value of 10 centimes at least must be employed in prepaying the postage. If not prepaid, double tax.

A letter being insufficiently prepaid is charged as an unpaid letter, allowance being made for the value of the stamps affixed.

POSTAL CARDS are in use at 5 centimes each for the interior, and at 10 centimes with answer prepaid. Double Post Cards at 10 centimes for the interior called *cartes lettres* are also issued. Postal Cards for Great Britain and Colonies, and to other countries of the International League, are in use at 10 centimes.

RECOMMENDED LETTERS, CARDS, PAPERS, &c.—Special attention is paid to the safe delivery of letters, &c. passing through the post, by paying 25 centimes in addition to the postage. A receipt is given to the sender, and another is required from the receiver on delivery. These letters may contain money or valuables and should be presented at the office an hour before the closing of the box, and must carry five seals with a distinct impression on each ; the seals must be composed of similar wax and uniform impressions. Postage stamps must not be applied to these letters.

Lettres Assurées.—The value may be assured on payment of 10 centimes for every 1000 francs in value up to the maximum of 100,000 francs ; for the safety of which the administration is responsible. Severe fines attend a false declaration of the value of the contents of a registered letter. A margin of ten per cent. is allowed in declaring the value of funded titles.

EXPRESS.—Letters and Postal Cards may be sent by express on payment of an additional postage of 25 centimes, and are then on arrival delivered immediately, without awaiting the ordinary rounds of the postmen ; but this is not done after 9 o'clock p.m.

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BOUND BOOKS.—The postage on these is fixed at one centime for every thirty grammes or fractions of the same, they must be enveloped in a band open at the ends, and be prepaid.

NEWSPAPERS, PAMPHLETS, AND PRINTED MATTER.—The rate of postage for journals and periodical publications is 1 centime per 75 grammes, supplements included; other printed papers 2 centimes per 50 grammes, any paper sent singly not weighing more than 25 grammes costs 1 centime; thus, a large journal like *The Times* may be sent to any part of Belgium for one centime (the tenth part of a penny) but 100 small circulars would cost 1 franc.

The postage must be prepaid, otherwise the Tariff appliable to letters is imposed, and they must be enveloped in a band of not more than one third the size of the packet, or if simply tied with string it must not be in a knot.

CORRECTED PROOFS may be accompanied by the manuscript or any notes on the same, under the same conditions.

MONEY ORDERS.—These are granted for any part of Belgium at the rate of 10 centimes for a sum not exceeding 20 francs, 20 centimes from 20 to 50 francs, 30 centimes from 50 to 100 francs, and an additional sum of 20 centimes for every 100 francs or fraction of 100 francs.

SAMPLES.—These are sent by post at the rate of 5 centimes for 100 grammes, and 10 centimes above, and under the maximum weight allowed of 250 grammes. They must not exceed 30 centimètres in length and 15 centimètres in thickness, and have no marketable value.

TO GREAT BRITAIN.—Letters, &c. are forwarded *via* Ostend by the day and night mails. Posted before 3 o'clock p.m. at the Branch Offices, or 4 o'clock p.m. at the *Grande Poste*, they leave by the 5 o'clock p.m. mail train, and are sent out in London by the first delivery next morning. After these hours and if posted at any time during the night they are dispatched by the mail

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train leaving Brussels at 7.15 a.m., and are delivered in London during the evening.

The Service *via* Calais allows letters, &c. to be posted up to 7.40 p.m. at the *Grande Poste*, or an hour earlier at the Branch Offices. The pillar boxes in town are emptied for these routes, *via* Ostend about 2.30 p.m. and about 3.30 a.m. and for Calais 6.30 p.m.

Letters are also received up to the moment of departure of the mail trains;—at 5.25 p.m. *via* Ostend, and 8.15 p.m. *via* Calais; they must then be posted in the carriage reserved for the service, which can be readily distinguished.

There is also a day mail *via* Calais, but the only advantage to be gained by giving this a preference over the day mail by Ostend is that the Calais boats suffer less from occasional delays in crossing the channel, and the service is consequently more to be depended on in bad weather. The pre-payment of postage by either route is optional. Pre-payment must be made by postage stamps. For every 15 grammes in weight letters are charged 25 centimes by both routes; if not prepaid, an additional tax of 25 centimes is imposed on letters sent by either route.

Recommended Letters *(Lettres recommandées)*—a provision which insures more especial care—are charged 25 centimes extra.

All these several articles must be prepaid, or will be surcharged either as unpaid letters or the rate quadrupled.

POST OFFICES.—Head Office: Temple des Augustins (Boulevard Anspach). Open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. for sale of postage stamps, prepayment, registering of letters, newspapers, proofs, &c.; from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Post Office Orders; for distribution of letters from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. For subscription to the newspapers (which may be effected at all Post Offices) from 8 to 8: for telegrams from 7 to 8. Boxes are emptied 45 minutes before the departure of the mail trains.

BRANCH POST OFFICES.—Open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. North Station (Station du Nord); South Station (Station du Midi); Luxembourg Station; Rue de la Loi Station; Curaghem Station; Boulevard de Waterloo (corner Rue

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du Pepin); 106, Boulevard de Waterloo; 3, Rue Blanche; 258, Chaussée d'Ixelles; 55, Chaussée de Ninove; Rue de Louvain (Palais Législatif); 24, Rue de l'Astronomie; 98, Rue Royale St. Marie, Schaerbeek; 1, Rue Chancellerie; 6, Boulevard de l'Entrepôt; 43, Boulevard de l' Abattoir; 23, Rue Notre-Seigneiur.

There being no delivery of letters in London on Sunday morning, the evening mail is not despatched on Saturday, and for the same reason there is no morning delivery in Brussels on Mondays.

Letters arriving from England are delivered in Brussels about 8.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Newspapers, Printed Matter, Photographs, are charged 5 centimes for every 50 grammes.

Proofs, Manuscripts and Business Papers *(Papiers d' Affaires)* in writing are charged 5 centimes for every 50 grammes—minimum charge 25 centimes.

Samples—5 centimes for 50 grammes; minimum charge being 10 centimes.

Recommended letters may be forwarded to England, and under the same conditions as given for the Interior; but the recommended letters must be sealed in the same manner as is required for the registered letters in Belgium.

MONEY ORDERS.—Post Office Orders for £10 and under are granted on Great Britain, at the rate of 25 centimes per £1.

FROM BRUSSELS.—The postage to the following countries for ordinary letters is:—

To France, Prepaid	25	centimes	per 15	grammes.
Unpaid	50	,,	15	,,
To Italy, Prepaid	25	,,	15	,,
Unpaid	50	,,	15	,,
To Switzerland, Prepaid ..	25	,,	15	,,
Unpaid ..	50	,,	15	,,
To Holland, Prepaid	20	,,	15	,,
Unpaid	40	,,	15	,,
To Germany, Prepaid	25	,,	15	,,
Unpaid	40	,,	15	,,

To INDIA, English possessions, and the United States, 25 centimes per 15 grammes; unpaid, 50 centimes.

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TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

This is under the same administration as the Postal Service, and is performed with dispatch and regularity. The tariff for every fifteen words to any part of the kingdom is as follows;—

	Fr.	cs.
Ordinary Telegram	0	50
10cs. extra for every 5 words or less up to 50		
10cs. ,, 10 ,, above 50		
Telegrams—		
Verified	0	75
Urgent, night	1	00
Express paid by sender, not including express charges	1	00
Express paid by receiver, not including express charges	0	50
With re-expedition	1	00
With copy or prepaid answer	1	00
Registered and receipt given	0	60
With acknowledgment of receipt	1	00

Registered telegrams are preserved six months, and are the only ones of which copies may be obtained.

For fifteen words to be sent from any of the Belgian Offices to the following countries the charges are:—

	Tax per telegram.	Tax per word.
To any part of England, Ireland and Scotland	0 80	0 10
Germany	0 80	0 10
France — General (Corsica included)	0 80	0 15
France — Frontier	0 80	0 10
France — Algiers and Tunis	0 80	0 25
Holland	0 50	0 50
	Frs.	cs.
Italy	2	30
Switzerland	1	80

Verified telegrams are at an additional half-charge.

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THE BRITISH CHARITABLE FUND.

Claims support from all English residents and visitors – No distinction of creed made in assisting the English poor – Supported by voluntary contributions – Its mission – Generous annual donation of the King of the Belgians – The Collector – Particulars of expenditure during the year 1882 – The Society's caution against affording indiscriminate Relief.

AN English family residing at Brussels escapes not a few of the claims which are daily made on its patience and purse in many other localities, but the above fund deserves a little assistance from every class of visitors by reason of the unexceptionable nature of its mission. Not a murmur since its formation has ever been raised either against its management or motives. All sectarian views are discarded in the praiseworthy desire to assist the poorer members of the British family whom accident has cast on a foreign soil, and where their charge must of necessity be voluntarily assumed. No object can have a greater claim on the sympathy of those of kindred blood who can afford to lend a helping hand. The committee are most strenuous in their exertions to avoid the repoach which would otherwise attach itself to a rich nation like England, were its poorer members neglected in a country where so little native poverty meets the eye. The sick are cared for, the dead decently interred, and the wandering prodigal obtains the loan or gift of a ticket which enables him to return to his own country. The sum annually collected amounts to about £350, of which the King of the Belgians, following his father's example, generously contributes eighty guineas per annum, and the interest on the reserved fund is £40. The collector is Mr. Fernandes, 22, Rue de Stassart, and boxes are placed at the principal hotels, &c.

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The following particulars of expenditure during the year 1882 speak for themselves:—

	fr.	ct.
Ten cases relieved monthly	2620	0
Casuals, 105 cases	869	70
Travelling expenses, 50 cases	646	0
Medical attendance and medicines	561	95
Hospital charges	600	0
Two Funerals	110	0
Protestant Orphanage (annual)	100	0
Charity Organisation Society, 5 l. st.	126	60
Cards for Coals and Bread	46	0
Youths' Outfits, 3 cases	270	0
Special case	587	50
Refunded	100	0
Christmas donations	455	0
General Expenses.		
Printing and Advertisements 161 0		
Rent 240 0		
Collector 200 0		
Office furniture and sundries 180 20		
Postage and stationery 50 0		
	831	20
By 3,500 francs Belgian, 4 per cent	3701	64
	11,625	59
Balance in hand, January 1st, 1883	1,130	72
	12,756	31

The Hon. Secretary is T. G. Jones, Esq., 34, Rue de la Longue Haie.

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ENGLISH CHURCHES IN BELGIUM.

There are no places of worship at Brussels where the services are conducted according to the forms used by Dissenting congregations. At the Catholic Churches they are all conducted in the native languages- French or Flemish.

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION.

Rue de Stassart. Chaplain, Rev. J. C. Jenkins, M.A. Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.; Litany (except the first Sunday of every month) 10.40 a.m.; Morning Service at 11; Evening Prayer at 4; Evening Service at 7. The early celebration is said in French the last Sunday in every month.

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CHURCH IN THE RUE BELLIARD.

Chaplain, Rev. A. K. Harlock, M.A. Sunday, Morning 12 a.m.; Afternoon 4. Holy Communion first and third Sundays in every month.

CHRIST CHURCH.

Rue Crespel. Chaplain, Rev. W. R. Stephens, M.A. Sundays, Morning at 11; Evening at 7. Holy Communion after the Morning Service every Sunday during summer, and the first and third Sundays during the rest of the year.

Eglise des Révérends Pères des Carmes déchaussés.—A chapel situated on the Avenue de la Toison d'Or, where English confessors may be met with.

OSTEND.

Rue Longue. Chaplain, Rev. Overstreet Fletcher. Holy Communion 8 30 a.m. (except the first Sunday in the month when it is at 11 a.m.); Morning Service at 11; Evening Service at 7.

BLANKENBERGHE.

Rue Breydel. Chaplain, Rev. A. V. Hughes Hallet, M.A. Divine Service during the bathing season every Sunday at 11 and 3.30. Holy Communion every other Sunday after Morning Service.

ANTWERP.

Rue des Tanneurs. Rev. Andrew Pryde, Chaussée de Malines. 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Holy Communion first Sunday in the month.

MARINER'S CHURCH AND INSTITUTE, situated dock-side Avenue du Commerce. Divine Service: Morning 11; Evening 7. The Institute is open free all the day and all sailors are welcome.

SPA.

English Church: Sundays and Holy Days, 8.30, 11.30, and 7 a.m. Daily morning prayer, 8.30. Holy Communion each Sunday and Holy Days. Chaplain, Rev. J. Harrison, M.A., Oxford.

GHENT.

English Church: Rue Digue de Brabant. There are two services every Sunday usually at 11 and 7. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Pierpont.

COURTRAI.

PROTESTANT CHURCH, Faubourg de Tournai. Divine Services: Sundays, 11.30 a.m. and during the winter at 5.30 p.m. Monday, classes for religious instruction, 3.30 p.m.

JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.

Rue de la Régence. Service every Saturday at 8.30 a.m. During January, February, March, November and December: Fridays at 5.30 p.m.; during April, May, September, and October: Fridays at 6 p.m.; and during July and August, Fridays at 7 p.m.

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APPENDIX.

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BELGIAN CUSTOMS' TARIFF.

We have, in the following List of Duties levied on importations, made a selection of all such as are likely to be of service. The list is not quite complete, but the articles omitted would not concern English visitors.

MERCHANDISE.	Per 100 kilos. Weight.	Ad Valorem duty Per cent.
	fr. cs.	fr. cs.
Bread, Rice, Tea, Biscuits, Maccaroni, Vermicelli, &c, made of flour of any kind .. .. .. Free		
Milk, Eggs, Vegetables, Potatoes, Mushrooms Free		
Wheat, Barley, Pearl Barley, Maize, Oats, &c. Free		
Meat, extract of Meat potted and preserved.. Free		
Game and Poultry .. .. Free		
Fish, including Oysters and tinned do. .. .. Free		
Vegetables, fresh or preserved. Are classed also as such, Hops, Yeast, tanned Bark, Oil Cake.. Free		
Fruit —		
Apples .. .. Free		
Almonds	30 0	
Oranges, Lemons, Figs	9 0	
Prunes and dried Raisins	25 0	
All others, green or dried		10 0
Plants and Flowers .. .. Free		
Cheese, best kinds	10 0	
,, common .. .. Free		
Tea	90 0	
Coffee	13 20	
,, roasted	17 50	
Cocoa, nibs	15 0	
,, prepared	30 0	
Sugar, unrefined, Free; but subject to an Excise Tax from, according to quality	34 26 to 48 07	

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BELGIAN CUSTOMS' TARIFF Continued.	Per 100 kilos Weight. fr. cs.	Ad Valorem duty Per cent. fr. cs.
Sugar, refined, but subject to an Excise Tax from, according to quality	51 13 to 54 70	
[Includes also many preparations such as Sweet Biscuits, Bonbons, Barley Sugar, &c., which do not contain much flour or fecula.]		
Syrups and Molasses Refuse, containing less than 50 p.c. saccharine matter		15 0
Preserves—		
Jams, Jellies, Marmalade, &c , Biscuits containing 20 p c of sugar, or any preparation for consumption or not	25 0	
In Spirit		
Other kinds include particularly preserves made with Vinegar, Pickles, Honey, Liquorice, and any preparation containing less than 8 per cent. of alcohol	10 0	
Starch .. .. Free		
Soap, all kinds	6 0	
Perfumery, with the exception of articles prepared with Spirit, when they are taxed as such		10 00
Spices, such as Cloves, Mace, Nutmegs, Pepper, Vanilla, and Mustard		15 00
Drugs, except such as contain Sugar, Wine, or Alcohol .. .. Free		
Coal, Coke, Charcoal .. .. Free		
Candles, Composition ditto, Night Lights		10 00
Wood—		
Oak or Walnut, mètre cube .. .. ..1 franc		
Other kinds for building purposes .. ..3 ,,		
Unsawn blocks .. ..3 ,,		
Planks over 5 centimètres in thickness ..6 ,,		
Planks under 5 ,, ,, ..9 ,,		
Common .. .. Free		
Casks, Brooms, &c. .. .. Free		
Cigars, Cigarettes	100 0	
Tobacco	300 0	
Beer, in casks .. .. .. 6 francs the hectolitre		
,, in bottles .. .. .. 7 ,, ,,		
Wine, under 18 per cent alcohol .. .. .. Free (Excise duty 23 francs per hectolitre).		
,, Strong Wines .. ..proportionately increased		
Vinegar, in cask		
,, in bottles		
Vegetable Oils .. .. Free		
Spirits—		
Eau de Vie, in casks, proof, per hectolitre 100 francs		
For every degree exceeding proof .. 2 francs		
Other Spirits .. .. 134 francs		
Liquors, in bottle .. .. 200 ,,		

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MANUFACTURED GOODS.

—:o:—

COTTON, WOOL, SILK, FLAX, &c.

The duty is charged according to fineness of quality, in order to determine under which category the weight of 100 square metres is taken, and the number of threads in 5 square millemètres of the same. A difference is made in mixed stuffs, unless the cotton predominates.

COTTON MATERIAL.

	Kilos.	Fr.	c.
1st Class—Weighing 11 kilos—(35 threads and less)	100	50	0
and over the 100 square mètres—(36 and more)	100	72	0

UNBLEACHED.

2nd Class—From 7 to 11 kilos—(35 and less)		60	0
the 100 square mètres—(36 to 43)..		100	0
(44 and more)..		180	0
3rd Class—From 7 to 11 kilos—(27 and less)		80	0
the 100 square mètres—(28 to 35)..		120	0
(36 to 43)..		190	0
(44 and more)..		300	0

BLEACHED.

These several qualities are charged 15 per cent. extra on unbleached.

COLOURED.

25 per cent. extra on unbleached.

PRINTED.

15 per cent. ad valorem.

	Per 100 kilos Weight.	Ad Valorem duty Per cent.
	fr. cs.	fr. cs.
Velvets, plain	85 0	
,, dyed or stamped	110 0	
Cords, Moleskins, &c., plain	60 0	
,, ,, dyed or stamped..	85 0	
Print'Dimities, Sateens, Damasks, made up, weighing 3 kilos or more, per 100 mètres square		15 0
The same weighing less than 3 kilos the 100 mètres		10 0
Cotton Lace, made by hand or bobbins .. .. Free		
,, Trade		10 0
Cotton, thread .. .. according to quality, from	10 00 to 50 00	
Silk, Flax, or Vegetable ditto.. .. .. .. Free		
Wool, Alpaca, Camel, and Goat's Hair.. according to quality, from	20 0 to 30 0	

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MANUFACTURED GOODS Continued.	Per 100 kilos Weight. fr. cs.	Ad Valorem duty Per cent. fr. cs.
* Clothes old or new, and Hats of all kinds, Gloves, Boots, Artificial Flowers		10 0
Same if old and worn are classed as *Drilles* and *Chiffons* (rags) .. .. Free		
* We have never known duty charged on Clothes that have been worn, although liable.		
Woollen Shawls, Scarves, and Indian Cachemires (imitations excluded)		5 0
Woollen and all other woven tissues, including Millinery, Trimmings, Hosiery, Blankets, Laces, Felt, Carpets, Cloths, Woollen Mixtures, Alpaca, Goat Skins, &c		10 0
Materials woven in Flax, Hemp or Jute, by hand or bobbins .. .. Free		
All others such as are enumerated under Woollen Articles, Tulle, Cambrics, Lawns, and all mixtures in which Flax, Hemp, or Jute predominates ..		10 0
Silks—		
Lace made by hand or bobbin .. .. .. Free		
All Silken Materials .. Either tariff at choice	300 0	10 0
Straw Plait of all kinds .. .. Free		
All Materials not given above, such as Horse Hair, Skins, Gold and Silver tissues, real or imitation, Spun Silk, Oil Cloth, or any other filiments ..		10 0
Skins and Parchment . .. . Free		
,, Sheep or Kid, tanned	10 0	
(Provisional duty is)	5 0	
,, Dyed, Varnished, &c.	30 0	
,, Worked, Gloves, Furs, Boots, Harness ..		10 0
Industrial Sundries, which include also Dressmakers' Models, Tar Cloth, Asphalted Felt, Catgut for Musical Instruments, Felt for Printing, Lining and stuffing Furniture, and many other items		5 0
Haberdashery, Cutlery, Perfumery, Pins, Needles, Buttons, Brushes, Playing Cards, Sealing Wax, Pencils, Engravings, Photographs, Toys, Umbrellas, Parasols, Fancy Work, Work in Aluminium, Ivory, Basket Work, Cork, and a numerous list of such-like articles		10 0
Furniture of all kinds, Stoves, Kitchen Utensils, in copper, zinc, lead, or tin		10 0
There is at present in existence a Provisional Treaty by which you may apply to obtain most Kitchen Articles, Stoves, etc., Cast, admitted at	4 0	
Iron or Steel, worked	6 0	
Earthenware, common	1 50	
Wedgewood or Porcelain		10 0

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MANUFACTURED GOODS Continued.	Per 100 kilos Weight.		Ad Valorem duty Per cent.	
	fr.	cs.	fr	cs.
Glass, green and bottles .. Either tariff at choice	1	0	10	0
,, Mirrors			10	0
Gold; Silver; Platina—				
Unworked, Monies, Jewellery made of these (including with Stones, Pearls, &c) .. .. Free				
Watches .. .. Free				
Plate, of all descriptions, Ornaments, Table Plate, etc.			5	00
Scientific Instruments .. .. Free				
Musical Instruments			6	0
Objects of Art, Paintings, Drawings, Statues, etc. .. .. Free				
Books and Music .. .. Free				
Fishing Tackle .. .. Free				
Packing Cases, in use .. .. Free				
Metals—				
Rough state .. .. Free				
Copper and Nickel, worked			10	00
Foreign Monies	60	0		
Iron, rough cast, and old		50		
,, rough worked, cast (Kitchen Utensils, &c. not included)	2	0		
,, Beaten, drawn, or sheet	1	0		
Steel, worked	4	0		
,, rough, cast		50		
,, rough, bar, sheets or wire	1	0		
Tin, unworked .. .. .. :	3	0		
,, worked			10	00
Pewter Lead Zinc, unworked or sheets .. Free				
,, worked			10	00
India Rubber, unprepared or in uncut leaves .. Free				
,, manufactured			10	0
Type for Printing .. .. Free				
Ropes and String, of not less than 2 millimètres in diameter .. .. Free				
Machinery and Trade Tools, cast	2	0		
(or parts of same), Iron and Steel	4	0		
,, Wood			10	0
,, Copper			12	0
Tram and Railway Cars are charged under this heading. Composite machinery in Copper, India Rubber, &c. may be classed under which section the importer thinks most advantageous.				
Minerals, not specified as taxed, includes all unworked Metals, Iron and Steel Filings, Chalk and Sulphur .. .. Free				

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MANUFACTURED GOODS Continued.	Per 100 kilos Weight.	Ad Valorem duty Per cent.
	fr cs	fr. cs.
All Animal Matters, not specified, Wax in rough state, Tallow Animal and Fish Oils, Horse Hair Cloth, Ropes, or otherwise prepared, Cotton, Wool, Flax, Hemp, Silk, and all other textiles in a raw or combed state .. .. Free		
Animals Living (including Horses and Cattle) Free		
Carriages for personal use, Bicycles, Velocipedes, Perambulators		10 00
Ships, Yachts, Boats, with all accessories .. Free		
Arms .. .. Free		
Gunpowder	15 0	

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MONEY.

Belgian. Frs. cs.		English. £ s. d.
25 00	.....	1 0 0
20 00	.....	16 0
12 50	.....	10 0
6 25	.....	5 0
5 00	.....	4 0
3 12½	.....	2 6
2 50	.....	2 0
2 00	.....	1 7½
1 25	.....	1 0
1 00	.....	9½
10	.....	1

Belgian value.		*Systematic name.*		*Approximate English value.*
100 Centimes	=	1 Franc	=	9½d.

The Franc is worth 9.69, and the Centime .0969d. sterling. It is 9-10ths fine, and contains 69.4 grains of pure silver. The Centime weighs 2 grammes, or 30.864 Troy grains of copper.

Exchange is invariably in favour of English money.—(see "Exchange," page 129).

SILVER COINS.

The silver coins are the 5, 2, 1, and ½ Franc pieces. They are all of the same standard of weight snd fineness as those of France.

N.B.—The coins of 5, 10, and 20 Centimes of Nickel are also in circulation.

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WEIGHTS.

Ounces.	Grammes. Centigramm.	Pounds or Livres.	Kilos. Grammes.	Cwt.	Kilos. Grammes.
1	28.33	11	4.987	5	253.912
2	56.67	12	5.440	6	304.694
3	85.01	13	5.894	7	355.477
4	113.35	14	6.347	8	406.259
5	141.69	15	6 801	9	457.042
6	170.03	16	7.254	10	507.824
7	198.36	17	7.708	11	558.607
8	226.70	18	8.161	12	609.389
9	255.04	19	8.614	13	660.172
10	283.38	20	9.068	14	710.904
11	311.72	21	9.521	15	761.737
12	340.06	22	9.975	16	812.519
13	368 40	23	10.428	17	863.301
14	396 73	24	10.882	18	914.084
15	425.07	25	11.335	19	964.866
		26	11.788		
		27	12.242		
lbs.	Kil. Gram.			Ton.	
		Quarters			
1	0.453			1	1015 300
2	0 906	1	12.695	2	2030.600
3	1.360	2	25 391	3	3045.900
4	1.813	3	38.087	4	4061.200
5	2.267			5	5076.500
6	2.720	Cwt.		6	6091.800
7	3.175	1	50.782	7	7107.100
8	St. 3.627	2	101.565	8	8122.400
9	4.080	3	152.347	9	9137.700
10	4.534	4	203.129	10	10153.000

The following is from the "Money, Weights and Measures of all Nations, by W. A. Browne, LL.D." Stanford, Charing Cross:—

Belgian value.		*Systematic name.*		*Approximate English value.* Grains Troy.
1000th of a Gramme	=	1 Milligramme	=	.015432349
10 Milligrammes	—	1 Centigramme	—	.154323488
10 Centigrammes	—	1 Decigramme	—	1.54323488
10 Decigrammes	—	1 Gramme	—	15.4323488
10 Grammes	—	1 Decagramme	—	154.323488

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WEIGHTS continued.

Belgian value.		*Systematic name.*		*Approximate English value.*
				Oz. Drams Av.
10 Decagrammes	—	1 Hectogramme	—	3 8.4283
				lbs. oz. Drams.
10 Hectogrammes	—	1 Kilogramme	—	2 3 4.3830
				lbs. Av.
10 Kilogrammes	—	1 Myriagramme	—	22.0466
10 Myriagrammes	—	1 Quintal Metrique	—	220.466
10 Quintals	—	1 Ton or Millier	—	2204.66

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MEASURES.

MEASURES OF LENGTH.

Belgian value.		*Systematic name.*		*Approximate English value.*
				Inches.
1000th part of Metre	—	1 Millimetre	=	.03037079
100th part of Metre	—	1 Centimetre	—	.3937079
10th part of Metre	—	1 Decimetre	—	3.937079
				Yd. Ft.
		1 Metre	—	1 0 3.37079
10 Metres	—	1 Decametre	—	10 2 9.7079
100 Metres	—	1 Hectometre	—	109 1 1.079
1000 Metres	—	1 Kilometre	—	1093 1 10.79
				Miles.
10000 Metres	—	1 Myriametre	—	6 370 0 11.0

The Metre is the fundamental unit of the measures of length as well as of all weights and measures. It is the ten millionth part of the distance from the Pole to the Equator.

The *League* of 4 Kilometres=4000 Metres; the League of 25 to a degree=4444 Metres; the Nautical League of 20 to a degree=5556 Metres; and the Nautical mile of 60 to a degree=1852 Metres.

MEASURES OF SURFACE.

Belgian value.		*Systematic name.*		*Approximate English value.*
				Square Inches.
100 Sq. Millimetres	=	1 Sq. Centimetre	=	.1500591052192
100 Sq. Centimetres	—	1 Sq. Decimetre	—	15 500591052192
				Square Feet.
100 Sq. Becimetres	—	1 Centiare	—	10.7642993418
100 Sq. Metres	—	1 Are or Sq. Decametre	—	Poles. 3.953828959
				Acres.
100 Sq. Decametres	—	1 Hectare	—	247.11431
100 Sq. Hectares	—	1 Sq. Kilometer	—	247.11431
100 Sq. Kilometres	—	1 Sq. Myriametre	—	24711.431

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CUBIC OR SOLID MEASURES.

Belgian value.		*Systematic name.*		*Approximate English value.*
				Cubic Feet.
1-10 of a Stere	=	1 Decistere	=	3.531714
10 Decisteres	—	1 Stere	—	35.31714
10 Steres	—	1 Decastere	—	353.1714

MEASURES OF CAPACITY.

Belgian value.		*Systematic name.*		*Approximate English value.*
				Minims.
1000th of a Cubic Decimetre	=	1 Millilitre	=	16.9034247744
				Fluid Drachms.
10 Millilitres	—	1 Centilitre	—	2.8172374624
				Imperial Pints.
10 Centilitres	—	1 Decilitre	—	.176077339525
10 Decilitres	—	1 Litre	—	1.76077339525
				Imperial Gallons.
10 Litres	—	1 Decalitre	—	2.2009667440625
				Imperial Bushels.
10 Decalitres	—	1 Hectolitre	—	2.751208430078125
10 Hectolitres	—	1 Kilolitre	—	27.51208430078

Rough approximate comparison between our own and foreign Weights and Measures most in use:—

An English pound weight is about ..... 17½ ounces.
A kilo is about ..... 2lbs. 3ozs.
1 cwt. ,, ... 50¾ kilos.
1 ton ,, ... 1015 kilos.

So that in purchasing ½ a Kilo or *Une Livre* as it is also frequently called here, you have nearly ten per cent. over the English pound weight.

In a 1000 Kilos of coal, &c., you have nearly 34 pounds less than our ton.

A Mètre is nearly one tenth longer than an English yard.

Five Kilomètres are about three English miles. *Une Lieue* is five Kilomètres.

A Hectare contains nearly two-and-a-half English acres.

There are about four-and-a-half Litres to the English gallon, consequently the Litre is about one ninth smaller than the imperial quart. The Hectolitre contains about 22 gallons.

A Stère is about 35 cubic feet. Large firewood is usually sold by this measure.

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CARRIAGE HIRE.

WITH ONE HORSE.	fr.	cs.	Coachman. fr.	cs.
Short journey or course	3	0		50
Per hour (a minimum of two hours charged)	2	50		50
Per day (7 hours)	15	0	2	50
To take out and fetch home before midnight	5	0	1	0
The same after midnight, Brougham, 2 seats	8	0	2	0
,, ,, Clarence, 3 seats	9	0	2	0
Night journey to station, &c., up till 7 a.m., with or without baggage, 2 or 3 places	4	0	1	0
TWO HORSES.				
Short journey or course	5	0	1	0
Per hour (a minimum of two hours charged)	4	0		50
Per day (7 hours)	25	0	3	0
To take out and fetch home before midnight, with Landau	10	0	1	50
Ditto, with Berlin Brougham or Clarence	8	0	1	50
Landau by the hour	5	0		50
After midnight, all two-horse carriages	12	0	2	50
Night journey to station, &c., up till 7 a.m., with or without baggage, 2 or 3 places	6	0	1	0

The gratuity to the coachman is compulsory, and can either be given to him personally or added to the account.

Carriages kept waiting more than a quarter-of-an-hour with some, half-an-hour with others, whether before or after midnight, will be charged for extra by the hour.

To Waterloo and back the charge is 25 francs.

The contract price for use of a carriage and single horse is 325 francs per month.

For a carriage and pair it is 450 francs.

The above charges are given us by two of the first livery stable keepers of the Quartiers Leopold and Louise, but we have just received those of an establishment in town which are considerably lower.

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LOST ARTICLES

Are taken to a Police Office at the Hotel de Ville, where they may be enquired for and obtained. A list is usually published once a month in the daily journals.

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EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES.

Argentine Republic	Consulate, Rue de la Chancellerie, 28.
Austria	Minister, Rue Montoyer, 79. Consulate, Place Chancellerie, 11.
Brazil	Minister, Rue de l'Industrie, 14. Consulate, Rue du Commerce, 50. Vice-Consul, Rue Belliard, 60.
Chili	Consulate, Rue de l'Hotel des Monnaies, 77. Vice-Consul, Rue de la Loi, 27.
Colombia	Vice-Consul, Avenue de la Reine, 12.
Costa Rica	Consulate, Rue Royale, 217.
Denmark	Consulate, Rue des Arts, 52.
England	Minister, Rue du Trone, 42. Vice-Consul, Rue d'Edimbourg, 35.
France	Minister, Rue Guimard, 12. Rue de l'Enseignement, 70.
Germany	Minister, Place de l'Industrie, 35. Consulate, Rue Fossé-aux-Loups, 1.
Greece	Consulate, Rue Neuve, 18-20.
Hawai	Consulate, Avenue des Arts, 42.
Holland	Minister, Rue de la Science, 52. Vice-Consul, Rue de la Révolution, 11.
Italy	Rue de Trêves, 17. Consulate, Rue Neuve, 18-20.
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	Consulate, Rue Vautier, 41.
Mexico	Vice-Consul, Chaussée de Charlervi, 7.
Monaco (Principality)	Rue du Marteau, 56.
Nicaragua	Consulate, Avenue de la Reine, 110.
Paraguay (Repub.)	Consulate, Rue Royale, 36. Vice-Consul, Boulevard Botanique, 34.
Persia	Consulate, Boulevard Botanique, 34.
Peru	Consulate, Avenue des Arts, 19.
Portugal	Minister, Rue de Hornes, 6. Consulate, Rue Royale, 36.
Russia	Minister, Avenue de la Toison d'Or, 69.
San Salvador	Consulate, Rue des Chevaliers, 23.
Spain	Minister, Rue de la Loi, 51. Consulate, Rue Royale, 48. Vice-Consul, Avenue des Arts.
Sweden and Norway	Minister, Rue Marie de Bourgogne, 50. Consulate, Rue d'Aremberg, 9.
Switzerland	Rue du Trône, 190.
Turkey	Minister, Avenue Louise, 10. Vice-Consul, Rue des Minimes, 31.
United States	Minister, Rue Belliard, 43. Consulate, Place du Trône, 1. Vice-Consul, Rue Berckmans, 116.
Venezula	Consulate, Avenue de la Reine, 13.

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TIME.

The difference between the Belgian and English time is about 17½ minutes, which is here that much in advance. It is also 9 minutes before the Paris time, 10½ minutes later than at Cologne, 12½ minutes later than at Berne, 8 minutes later than at Geneva, 32½ minutes later than Rome, 2½ minutes later than in Holland

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POPULATION.

	January 1st, 1883.
BRUSSELS	166,351
FAUBOURGS.	
Schaerbeek	44,492
Molenbeek	43,478
Ixelles	38,588
St. Gilles	36,403
St. Josse-ten-Noode	48,433
Anderlecht	24,939
Laeken	20,004
	422,688
PRINCIPAL TOWNS.	
Antwerp	180,447
Ghent	136,234
Liége	129,200
Bruges	44,796
Verviers	42,808
Malines	42,381
Louvain	35,770
Ostend	19,696
Spa	6,534

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BOARDING HOUSES.

Mrs. Bourecaud's, 6, Rue Jourdan.
Mlle. Van Loo's, 22, Rue Belliard.
Mr. Culliford's, 20, Rue Bodenbroeck.
Mme. Verlier, 1, Rue Veydt.
61, Rue de la Concorde
Mme. Gachet, 10, Rue Caroly.
Mme. Mathys, 42, Rue Prince Royale.
Bernard's, 48 and 50, Rue Belliard.
74, Rue du Prince Royale.

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CAFES, RESTAURANTS, AND TAVERNS.

Milles Colonnes, Place de la Monnaie.
Grand Cafe Suisse, Place de la Monnaie.
Cafe de la Lanterne, Boulevard d'Anspach.
,, Bourse, Boulevard d'Anspach.
Grand Cafe, Boulevard d'Anspach.
Salle de Belliard du Grand Hotel.
Chalet de la Reine, Au Bois.
La Laitièrie, Au Bois.
Trianon, Au Bois.
Aux Frères Provenceaux, 40, Rue Royale.
Roger de Cancale, Fossé-aux-Loups.
Dubost Frères (late), 23, Rue de la Puterie.
Duvivier, 20, Place du Musée.
Prince of Wales, Rue Villa Hermosa.
Carter's, Place du Musée.
Guilliaume's, Place du Musée.
George's, Chaussée d'Ixelles.
Grand Comptoir, 21, Rue de l'Evêque.
Globe, Place Royale.
London Tavern, Rue de l'Ecuyer.
Turf Tavern, 4, Pte. Rue du Musée.
Taverne Louise, Porte Louise.
Nouvelle Taverne, 7, Rue Leopold.
Taverne de Strasbourg, 25, Rue Leopold.
,, Goldschmidt, 45, Rue de l'Ecuyer.
,, Tortoni, 33, Rue de l'Ecuyer.

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HOTELS.

Hotel de Belle Vue, Place Royale.
,, Flandre, Place Royale.
,, Suede, Rue de l'Evêque.
,, Univers, Rue Neuve, 38-40.
,, l'Europe, Place Royale.
,, France, Rue Royale.
Grand Hotel, Boulevard d'Anspach.
,, de Saxe, Rue Neuve, 77-79.
,, Gurnay, Boulevard de Nord.
Hotel du Grand Miroir, Rue de la Montagne, 28.
,, Monarque, Rue des Fripiers, 17.
,, Mengelle, Rue Royale, 71 to 79.
,, de la Poste, Fossé-aux-Loups, 28.
,, de l'Empereur, Rue Neuve, 63.
,, de Vienne, Rue de la Fourche, 24.

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FAMILY HOTELS.

Hotel Windsor, Rue de la Regence.
Wiltshire's Hotel, Boulevard de Waterloo, 23-25.
Culliford's Hotel, Rue Bodenbroeck, 20.
De Boeck Hotel, Avenue de la Toison d'Or, 45.
Hotel Britannique, Place du Trône, 3.

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COMMISSIONAIRES.

The Commissionaires which are stationed outside the Railway Stations, Public Buildings, and corners of the principal thoroughfares, are under Police regulations, and have to conduct themselves with civility and politeness.

The renumeration for their services for executing commissions, transporting baggage, &c, must be previously agreed on, as they have no fixed tariff.

The Railway Commissionaires or Porters, who are inside the stations, are not entitled to any renumeration for taking baggage to and fro from the public conveyances, weighing, loading, or unloading the same.

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POLICE OFFICES.

These are also registration offices for many domestic concerns, and in order to find out which you belong to must consult the map, which gives both divisions and sections of the City and Faubourgs. The Central Division is at the Hotel de Ville, where the chief administrative functions are concentrated. The Judicial Division: 30, Marche-aux-Charbons. The Territorial Divisions, 1st and 7th Sections: Bureau, 35, Place du Grand Sablon; 2nd Division, 2nd and 8th Sections: 55, Rue du Poinçon; 3rd Division, 3rd and 4th Sections: 13, Nouveau Marche-aux-Grains; 4th Division, 5th and 6th Sections: 14, Rue de Ligne; 5th Division, 9th and 10th Sections: 7, Rue des deux Eglises; 6th Division, 11th Section: Rue Blanche.

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PARCELS BY CONTINENTAL PARCELS EXPRESS.

From all Stations on the Belgian State Lines (Ostend excepted) to London:

½ kilo.	2 kilos.	5 kilos.	10 kilos.	15 kilos.	30 kilos.	50 kilos.	100 kilos.	200 kilos.
2.0	2.40	3.25	4.20	5.25	9.60	14.90	26.10	48.35.

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THEATRES AT BRUSSELS.

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THE THEATRE DE LA MONNAIE OR OPERA HOUSE.

Situate on the Place de la Monnaie, is a handsome structure which will contain 1600 persons.

	fr.	cs.
Fauteuils d'orchestre, premières loges, baignoires	6	00
Balcon, loges de face, 2me. rang	5	00
Parquet	4	00
,. Militaire	2	50
Loges de côté, 2me. rang	3	50
Troisièmes	2	00
Parterre	2	00
Amphithéatre des 3mes	1	50
Quatrièmes	1	00
Paradis		50

Bureaux open every day from 12 to 4 p.m.

The season commences the first week in September, and lasts until the first week in May.

Season tickets for 144 nights in eight payments in advance :—

	Francs each seat.
Premières loges de face à salon; loges entre colonnes nos. 13, 14, 0; loges avant-scène, nos. 1 et 2	560
Premières loges de balcon	480
Premières loges de face à salon (2me. rang) et entre colonnes	400
Loges de rez-de-chaussée, compartiment des stalles	520
Id. id. id. du parquet	480
Id. id id. du parterre	440
Fauteuils d'orchestre	480
Stalles de parquet	320
Secondes loges de côté	280
Fauteuils de balcon	400

Reserved Boxes may be taken and considered as exclusive property and to admit anyone else on your order by special arrangement with the Director as to terms.

By paying one-third more a box of from 4 to 6 seats may be divided between 8 or 12 persons. But the ticket is not transferable.

Single seats—the Fauteuil d'Orchestre and Fauteuil de Balcon—may be engaged for the season at 60 francs and 50 francs per month; 480 francs and 400 francs respectively, but if only taken by the month 25 per cent. is charged extra.

The month represents 18 performances.

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When notice is given to suspend Season Tickets on any occasion, holders of such intending to occupy their seats are required to give notice the day following, or the places will be disposed of.

The management is subsidised by the town, and it may be interesting to observe that there are 2 managers, 19 Chefs de Service, 32 vocalists, 18 dancers, 42 subordinates of the ballet, 94 choristers, 81 musicians in the orchestra, 21 scenic musicians, 20 machinists, 20 employés, and 30 dressers.

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THEATRE MOLIERE.

This is a very pretty and respectable little Théâtre in the Rue du Bastion near the entrance to the Chaussée d'Ixelles, very convenient for residents in Ixelles and the Quartier Louise.

	fr.	cs.
Sous loge Royale	4	00
Avant Scenes, 1re.	5	00
,, rez-de-chaussée	4	00
Premières loges	3	50
Baignoires	3	50
	3	00*
Balcon	3	50
Stalls d'orchestre	3	00*
Loges de côté, 2me rang.	2	50*
Galeries	1	25
		50

Twelve tickets for as many seats in the places marked thus (*) at the performances may be obtained for 30 francs, Bureau de Location, 9, Rue du Bastion, open every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Programmes will be provided gratis every Saturday on demand.

Of the others, the Eden is a free and easy rendezvous, with a garden attached. The Musée du Nord is pleasing to young children, and all afford a diverting evening's amusement.

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THEATRE NATIONAL (FLAMAND).

Rue du Cirque.—1800 *places.*

	fr.	cs.
Baignoires	2	00
Premières loges	1	50
Balcon	1	25

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THEATRES DES GALERIES SAINT-HUBERT.

Galerie du Roi.

OPERETTES, COMEDIES, VAUDEVILLES.

	fr.	cs.
Baignoires	5	00
Premières stalles, loges de face	7	50
Parquet	2	75
Secondes loges	2	25
Troisièmes loges, parterre	1	50
Amphithéâtre	1	25
Stalles de galerie	2	50

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THEATRE ROYAL DU PARC.

Rue de la Loi.

OPERETTES, COMEDIES, DRAMAS, VAUDEVILLES.

Bureaux, 10 to 3 o'clock.

Reserved Seats.	fr.	cs.
Fauteuils d'orchestre, Avant-scènes	5	00
Stalles d'orchestre, premières loges, baignoires	4	00
Loges de côtés	3	00
Stalles de Parquet, ,, Galerie	3	00
,, Baignoires	2	50
Troisièmes	1	75

The office keeper at this Théâtre furnished the above charges for the reserved seats, but had not the courtesy to give the fees at the door—these he said were written up outside--even the above were obtained with some difficulty.

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ALCAZAR (Fantaisies Parisiennes).

Rue d'Aremberg.

	fr.	cs.
Baignoires	5	00
Stalles d'orchestre	4	00
Balcon 2fr. 50cs. to	3	00
1re. loges	2	00
Parterre	1	50
Troisiémes	1	00

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EDEN THEATRE.

	fr. cs.
Premières loges	3 00
General entrance	1 00

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MUSEE DU NORD.

	fr. cs.
Entrance	1 00

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CASINO.

Galerie de la Reine.

	fr. cs.
Baignoires	2 50
Fauteuils	2 00
1re. loges	1 50
Parterre	1 00

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CONTRIBUTIONS, OR TAXES.

The taxes are more concentrated here than in England. There is not that unwelcome frequent call on your purse—income tax, poor rates, highway, lighting, and police rates, &c., that you can scarcely estimate at the end of the year, how much you have been called on to contribute to the National and Parochial Exchequer.

First Basis.

Five per cent. on the rental value assessed to the full amount per annum.

Second Basis.—Doors and Windows, Each.

On the ground floor, 1st storey, 2nd storey—	fr. cs.
In the communes of less than 5000 inhabitants ..	1 00
,, ,, 10,000 ,, ..	1 10
,, From 10,000 to 25,000	1 30
,, From 25,000 to 50,000	1 80
,, From 50,000 and above	2 28
Windows on higher stories—	
In the communes from 5,000 and under	1 00
,, From 5,000 and above	1 10

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THIRD BASIS.

One per cent on the value of the furniture.

FOURTH BASIS.—SERVANTS.

For each man or woman, household working servant	8 00
A single servant	10 00
Each female servant when only two are kept without a man servant	20 00
Each female servant when more than two are kept and where one or more men servants are kept	25 00
Each servant when three are kept, one of whom as nurse, without male servants	20 00
One man servant	25 00
Each man servant, when two to four are kept	30 00
,, when more than four are kept	40 00
,, in livery, extra	10 00

FIFTH BASIS.—HORSES.

Each horse for private use ..... per annum	50 00
,, ,, if two are kept ,,	60 00
,, ,, if 3 to 5 are kept ,,	70 00
,, ,, more than 5 are kept ,,	80 00
,, ,, and business use	20 00
Livery horses	10 00
Horse breeders, less than ten	100 00
,, more than ten	200 00

There is added to the total sum due on these items an additional 15cs per franc, the full amount of which is paid to the profit of the State.

On this amount in full, as due to the State, is charged 18½cs. and 50cs. (68½ per cent.) for the benefit of the Province and the Commune.

We have here given the sums charged in the Commune d'Ixelles in '83—a Commune of over 40,000 inhabitants—as a fair average one adapted to the guidance of English visitors, but it must be observed that the same varies according to the expense incurred in the several districts which have each their own Corporate Municipality.

The *Contribution Foncière*, a strictly landlord's property tax, amounts to 7 per cent on the rental to the State, and in the above-named Commune 18½cs. and 50cs. (68½ per cent.) additional to the local government.

Professional and trade licenses are imposed according to different classes and tariffs, but to give these would scarcely be of any service.

There is a small sum charged for the assessment of taxes in taking possession, if the same be deemed necessary.

In moving from one Commune to another, without previously discharging the amount due for taxes, one incurs the liability of a fine of 42fr. 40cs.

If the number of servants or horses be increased before the 30th of September, and after having returned a statement of the number

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employed, notice to that effect must be given to the *Receveur* at his office, or two fines will be inflicted—42fr. 40cs. and eight times the amount of the extra tax due.

The value of the furniture may be assessed at fifteen times its annual letting rent, instead of being appraised.

The taxes are imposed the 1st day of January, any addition made afterwards to the objects liable, before the 1st of April, must be immediately declared.

Servants and Horses employed during the first six months are due for the entire year, those during July, August, and September, for six months only.

Dogs are taxed 5 francs each per annum; sporting dogs, 12 francs; greyhounds and bull-dogs, 35 francs.

We would also refer to the observations made at Page 70 of the "Guide," respecting this subject, and it will be readily seen how the numerous rates and taxes in force in England are here simplified and conveniently collected.

All Leases, Agreements, Warrants, &c., are executed on Government stamped paper, at the rate of 45cs. per sheet.

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RAILWAY FARES.

The fares on all the State Railways are easy calculated for any distance by consulting the following tables and explanations of the existing tariff.

The 1st class Express fare is 10cs. per ktre., with a reduction of 5cs. on every 9 ktres, for any distance.

1st class Express Trains.

Kilométres.		fr.	cs.
1 to 5	.....		50
6	10cs. per ktre....		60
7	,, ..		70
8	,, ..		80
9	,, ..		90
10	Reduction of 5cs..		95
11	.....	1	05
12 to 18	10cs. per ktre....	1	75
19	Reduction of 5cs..	1	80
20 to 27	10cs. per ktre....	2	60
28	Reduction of 5cs..	2	65
29 to 36	10cs. per ktre....	3	45
37	Reduction of 5cs..	3	50
38 to 45	10cs. per ktre....	4	30
46	Reduction of 5cs..	4	35
47 to 54	10cs per ktre....	5	15
55	Reduction of 5cs..	5	20
56 to 63	10cs. per ktre....	6	00
64	Reduction of 5cs..	6	05
65 to 72	10cs. per ktre....	6	85
73	Reduction of 5cs..	6	90
74 to 81	10cs per ktre....	7	70
82	Reduction of 5cs..	7	75
83 to 90	10cs. per ktre....	8	55
91	Reduction of 5cs..	8	60
99	10cs. per ktre....	9	40
100	Reduction of 5cs..	9	45

1st class Ordinary Trains.

Kilométres.		fr.	cs.
1 to 5	.....		40
6	7½cs. per ktre....		50
7	,, ...		55
8	,, ...		65
9	,, ...		70
10	,, ...		80
11	,, ...		85

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Thus the 1st class fares by Ordinary trains are charged from the first to the fifth ktre. 40cs., and each succeeding ktre. 7½cs., or rather 5cs. and 10cs. alternately, continuing as under:—

	fr.	cs.
12 ktres.		95
13 ,,	1	00
14 ,,	1	10
15 ,,	1	15
16 ,,	1	25
And so up to 100 ktres. this would amount to	7	50
But an additional 5cs. is charged on the 43rd ktre., and 5cs on the 100th, consequently the fare charged for travelling 100 ktres. by Ordinary train, 1st class, is	7	60

The 2nd class fares by Express are 5cs. per 10 ktres. less than 1st class Ordinary train fares, thus:—

	fr.	cs.
10 ktres., 1st class, Ordinary		80
100 ,, ,,	7	60
10 ktres., 2nd class, Express		75
100 ,, ,,	7	10

The 2nd class fares by Ordinary train are one fourth less than 2nd class fares Express.

The 3rd class fares by Express are exactly one half of the amount charged by 1st class Express, but if the division results in 2½cs., 5cs. are charged.

	fr.	cs.
10 ktres., 1st class, Express		95
100 ,, ,,	9	45
10 ktres., 3rd class, Express		50
100 ,, ,,	4	75

The 3rd class Ordinary train fares are one half the 1st class fare by the same.

When there is more than one line conducting to the same town, the shortest distance is charged.

The return tickets for all classes have a reduction of 40 per cent. on the single price paid, in returning.

These are available for the same day only till midnight, within 75 ktres. From 76 to 130 ktres. till the next day but one at midnight. From 131 ktres., these are available by the midnight trains until the end of the next day but one.

Fêtes and Sundays are not included in the time accorded.

Circular excursion tickets are issued at reduced rates from the 1st of May to the 31st October.

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Express fares to the following places are :—

Brussels to—	1st class. fr. cs.	2nd class fr. cs.	3rd class. fr. cs.
Paris	36 20	27 20	
Bale	63 30	45 40	
Berne	82 00	60 75	
Aix-la-Chapelle	15 05	11 30	7 50
Cologne	26 30	19 30	13 05
Mayence	46 20	34 10	
Vienna	149 35	112 60	
Rotterdam	13 90	10 80	7 00
Amsterdam	21 30	16 80	11 00

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GOODS RAILWAY CONVEYANCE TARIFF IN BELGIUM.

Tariff No. 1—*Express.*

	fr. cs.	fr. cs.
Packages of 5 kilos and under are sent to any distance in the exterior, if prepaid at		80
Including delivery.		
Ditto, carriage not prepaid, according to distance	90 to	1 10
Packages of 6 to 10 kilos, according to distance and weight	90 to	1 10
Packages of 10 kilos and over, according to distance and weight, from	1 10 to	11 30

The rates for small parcels, if sent by Tariff No. 2, or *Grande Vitesse* :—

	fr. cs.	fr. cs.
Packages of 5 kilos and under are sent to any distance in the interior, if prepaid		50
Ditto, carriage unpaid, from	50 to	70

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The following table will illustrate the relative cost of the three tariffs, and also the charge for furniture per waggon :—

Tariff No. 1.	fr. cs.	Tariff No. 2.	fr. cs.
1 to 5 kilométres	4 20	1 to 5 kilométres	80
And 3 centimes extra per kilométre, to intermediate stations according to distance.		At 2 cs. per ktre. and according to distance, to	
75 ktres.....	6 30	75 ktres.....	2 20
From 75 2cs. per ktre. according to distance, to		At 8 cs. per 5 ktres. to	
150 ktres.....	7 80	150 ktres.....	3 40
At 8 cs. per 5 ktres. to		At 6 cs. per 5 ktres. to	
200 ktres.....	8 60	200 ktres.....	4 00
At 6 cs. per 5 ktres. to		At 4 cs. per 5 ktres. to	
425 ktres.....	11 30	425 ktres.....	5 80

Tariff No. 3.

Minimum Charge.	fr. cs.	First Division.	fr. cs.
1 to 5 kilométres	60	1 to 5 kilométres	1 50
At 20 cs. per 5 ktres. to		At 10 cs. per ktre. to	
75 ktres.....	3 40	75 ktres.....	8 50
At 15½ cs. per 5 ktres. to		At 8 cs. per ktre. to	
150 ktres.....	5 80	150 ktres.....	14 50
At 12 cs. per 5 ktres. to		At 6 cs. per ktre. to	
200 ktres.....	7 00	200 ktres.....	17 50
At 8 cs. per 5 ktres. to		At 4 cs. per ktre. to	
425 ktres.....	10 60	425 ktres.....	26 50

Furniture.

Furniture in own waggons.	fr. cs.	In Railway trucks.	fr. cs.
1 to 5 kilométres	9 0	1 to 5 kilométres	10 55
		At 3fr. 50cs. per 5 ktres. to (10cs. added)	
At 60 cs. per ktre. to			
75 ktres.....	51 0	75 ktres.....	59 65
		At 2fr. 80cs. per 5 ktres. to (15cs. added)	
At 2fr. 40cs. per 5 ktres. to			
150 ktres.....	87 0	150 ktres.....	101 80
		At 2fr. 10cs. per 5 ktres. to (5cs. added)	
At 1fr. 80cs. per 5 ktres. to			
200 ktres.....	105 0	200 ktres.....	122 85
		At 1fr. 40cs. per 5 ktres. to (20cs. added)	
At 1fr. 20cs. per 5 kitres. to			
425 ktres.....	159 0	425 ktres.....	186 05

Carriages are charged at the same rate as a truck load of furniture, as given above in first column, and are forwarded by ordinary passenger trains.

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The following table will shew the relative charges for horses sent by *Grande* or *Petite Vitesse* :—

	By *Grande Vitesse*. 1 to 3 horses	By *Petite Vitesse*. 1 horse	2 horses	3 horses
	fr cs.	fr cs.	fr cs.	fr. cs.
1 to 5 ktres.....	8 00 ..	3 60	5 40	7 20
2fr. per 5 to 75 ktres.....	36 00 ..	12 00	18 00	24 00
1fr. 60cs. per 5 to 150 ktres.....	60 00 ..	18 75	28 15	37 50
1fr. 20cs per 5 to 200 ktres.....	72 00 ..	21 75	32 65	43 50
80cs. per 5 to 425 ktres.....	108 00 ..	30 75	46 15	61 50

Dogs may be sent in baskets by Tariff No. 1 or 2, without responsibility on the part of the railway.

ADDITIONAL CHARGES.

	Tariff No. 1. fr. cs.	No. 2. fr. cs.	No. 3. fr. cs.
Registering (compulsory by No. 3)	— ..	— ..	20
Prise à domicile, every 100 kilos	30 ..	30 ..	30
Remise à domicile, every 10 kilos	— ..	— ..	5
Loading and unloading, every 100 kilos..	— ..	— ..	10

	fr. cs.
Numbering each package, per 100 kilos	1
Giving notice of arrival, each package.....	10

In addition to the explanations that we have already given, as it is so difficult to obtain reliable information on this subject, without considerable trouble, it may be as well to make a few other remarks.

Over 10 Kilos the rates by Tariff No. 1 are calculated from 10 to 10 Kilos to 100 Kilos with a minimum of 1fr. 10cs. under 10 Kilométres to 1fr. 20cs. beyond; for 100 Kilos as shewn by the tables, the charge is from 4fr. 20cs. to 11fr. 30cs., according to distance.

At stations where there are no vans employed, the delivery is limited to parcels of 25 Kilos and under.

Parcels of 5 Kilos can be delivered at any distance, by payment of 1fr. for every 5 Kilométres or portion of the same, beyond the recognised limit and for which a deposit may be required.

Letters and Parcels without value, sent by express, must be prepaid.

A *lettre de voiture* must accompany all Parcels sent by rail (excepting those under 100 Kilos), by Tariffs Nos. 1 and 2, not exceeding three in number, and of undeclared value, and a form such as the following will suffice :—

Bruxelles, —— Novre., 1883.

Deux colis contenant des Habillements, pour Monsieur Jones—Rue de l'Evêque, No. 150—Ostende. Envoi de T. Brown, Rue Royale, No. 300—Bruxelles, le 23 Novembre, 1883.

Tariff No. 2. If carriage paid, add—Franco de Port.

A receipt for the same will be given in return.

A *passavant* (50cs.) is necessary when sending near or across the frontier; this had better be obtained and filled up at the Goods Office, where the particulars required to be given will be readily explained.

All goods are sent by Tariff No. 2 (unless otherwise directed) up to 200 Kilos in weight.

Over 10 Kilos the charge is made from 10 to 10 Kilos.

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Delivery is made the morning after the dispatch of the Parcels under 5 Kilos by this tariff. Heavy Goods are sent out within six hours of their arrival (night hours not being counted). All goods must be presented at the Receiving Office one hour before the departure.

The *Affranchissement* or payment of carriage on small parcels is effected with stamps, obtainable at the office.

Goods to any weight may be sent by Tariffs Nos. 1 and 2 by making a request in writing, and paying the usual charges.

Careful packing and fastening of all goods are exacted; they must also be sealed down, or a declaration of non-responsibility for loss or damage will be required by the Authorities.

All packages will be numbered, and a receipt given, for the same on payment of 1c. per 100 Kilos; this is included when loading or unloading is charged.

It is to be understood that a pro-ratâ charge is made for goods sent, from 10 Kilos to 100 Kilos, according to weight and distance, a minimum charge for which is 80cs. for 1 Kilométre, and 5fr. 80cs. for the extreme limit, viz., 425 Kilométres.

Tariff No. 3, or *Petite Vitesse*, is divided into several classes, but we need only speak of those which concern us—those relating to the carriage of minerals, &c., being unnecessary.

The first division is the most ordinary one, and the tariff is based on 1000 Kilos in weight (nearly 1 ton). The intermediate charges are of course made according to the relative weights and distances, which space will not allow us to give here, but a minimum tax is given above as fixed on any weight under 1000 Kilos, based on an expedition of 400 Kilos. Thus, on referring to Tariff No. 2, 100 Kilos sent 425 Kilométres is charged 5fr. 80cs., or double that weight 10fr. 60cs., exactly the minimum charge of 400 Kilos per *Petite Vitesse* The advantage in the cost of freight consequently commences only with expeditions of over 200 Kilos (about 2 cwt.), 200 Kilos either by Tariffs 2 or 3 costing the same amount. Exceeding this weight, the scales given above shew its economy on goods sent by Tariff No. 3, a charge (see table) is made on a minimum weight of 400 Kilos, the additional charge not included.

Private carriages sent by the 1st train are charged the same whether on 2 or more springs; they must be at the station an hour before departure, and if the owner prefers to travel in the same, first-class fare is charged in addition to freight.

These can be sent by *Petite Vitesse*, at a minimum charge per weight of 2500 Kilos for one carriage, 4000 Kilos for two (they may be taken into parts), and are charged at the second-class rate of Tariff No. 3. This is about the third of the cost by *Grande Vitesse*.

Carriages may be sent in closed trucks, either by *Grande* or *Petite Vitesse*, at an augmentation of rate of 25 per cent.

A corpse is charged at the same rate as a carriage by *Grande Vitesse*. Two persons may ride in the van free of charge.

Horses can only be sent by *Grande Vitesse* a distance of at least 75 Kilométres, unless it be from one terminus to another; they must be at the station an hour before departure of train, and must be accompanied by a care-taker, who has a free pass in the same box.

Notice is given immediately on the arrival of goods which cannot be delivered, or are addressed *Bureau restant*, and eight hours only are allowed to remove them without incurring warehousing charges (*chomage*), hours of night, Sundays, and fête-days excepted, after which the whole

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time is calculated for unloaded trucks 25cs. per hour and per truck; if unloaded, 2cs. per diem and per 100 Kilos. (minimum charge, 10cs.).

Goods subject to Custom's examination must be either cleared or warehoused there after paying freight and charges; unless this is done there is a charge of 4cs. per diem and per 100 Kilos (minimum, 50cs.), in addition to the charges imposed for the delay by the Customs, and the *chomage* due for the truck. Goods which measure more than 1 cubic métre, the 200 Kilos are fined 50 per cent. more.

The Vans *(tapissières)* provided by the Railway for the conveyance of furniture are limited to carry not more than 3000 Kilos, and the home loading and unloading is at the sender or receiver's charge; at the station it is included in the freight. These are sent by *Petite Vitesse.*

If the Van is provided by the Authorities a charge of 10fr. is made for bringing and returning the same to and from the house to station, within a distance of 3 Kilométres.

Eight hours is allowed for loading or unloading, and all necessary formalities completed, counting from the moment notice is given of the Van (full or empty) being at your disposal. Beyond this, 25cs. per hour is charged. Night hours are not included (these are calculated from the closing to the opening of the Custom House), so that a Van sent in in the evening the hours are not counted until the morning.

These Vans may be sent beyond the terminus, but the sender is responsible for all risks and damages to the same.

A Van will be sent on demand being made at any of the stations, with a deposit of 10fr., which is returned on departure of van, or forfeited in case it is not used.

If an exclusive Waggon be required for a smaller quantity of furniture, the minimum weight of 4000 Kilos is charged.

When the sender provides his own Van, the weight is limited to 6000 Kilos, weight of the Van and Goods included. When empty the same is returned free of charge.

The size of the Vans must not exceed 2 métres 70 centimétres in width, or 3 métres 40 centimétres in height from the level of the rails. When the width does not exceed 1 métre 30 centimétres, the height can be carried to 4 métres 10 centimétres.

Vans from 6 to 14 métres in length, are restricted to 3 métres 10 centimétres in height from the level of the rails, and 2 métres 40 centimétres in width.

Exceeding 14 métres the transport is not compulsory.

The wheels may be taken off to gain space, but this must be undertaken by the sender, without using the railway implements for the purpose.

Loading and unloading is charged at the rate of 10cs. per 100 Kilos per waggon.

The weight may be verified on payment of 5cs. per 100 Kilos, and a margin of 2 per cent. is allowed; exceeding this, any overcharge is restituted.

Parcels sent by Nos. 1 or 2 under 5 Kilos may be assured up to 200fr. on payment of 10cs. by means of stamp. Over this weight, by any tariff, the value may be declared on the *letire de voiture*, for which 50cs. is charged for every 1000fr.

An assurance is granted against delay distinct from that against loss, the delay in delivery not to exceed six hours by Tariff No. 1; one day by Tariff No. 2; two days by Tariff No. 3.

For goods lost or spoiled which have not been insured, responsibility

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does not extend beyond 4fr. per Kilo per Tariffs Nos. 1 and 2; or 75cs. per Kilo by Tariff No. 3, and in no case to exceed the value of the goods. One-tenth of the value per diem of a carriage insured against delay is paid after the stipulated time of delivery, and after 15 days it is assumed to be lost.

Remboursement. Packages may be sent to be paid for on delivery, which amount is received and refunded to the sender. Notice of this, and the sum must be written on the *lettre de voiture* in full, and if the receiver is required to pay the expense—20cs. for 200fr. under 5 Kilos, and from 25cs. to 70cs. for 1000fr., according to distance—it is necessary to add *Franco de Port.* Care must be taken not to send chemicals or explosives, &c., by the ordinary traffic, as they require special instructions to be followed.

Goods left *en depôt* more than six months are sold.

For further information relating to Fares and Goods, refer to Pages 148 and 149 of the "Family Guide."

Gas.—For all questions concerning Gas apply to the Office, 16, Rue Marcq, near the Canal; and for

Water.—Office, 20, Rue du Lombard.

——:o:——

OMNIBUSSES.

To Ixelles—

From the Point Central (Bourse) to the Place Royale, Porte de Namur and Ixelles	30
From the Place Royale, to the Porte de Namur and Ixelles	20
From the Porte de Namur	10
From the Place Royale to the Point Central	20

To St. Josse-ten-Noode—

From the Point Central (Bourse, to St. Josse-ten-Noode and vice versâ	20
From the Point Central (Bourse) to Place du Congrès	20
From the Place du Congrès to St. Josse-ten-Noode or Point Central	10

To Molenbeek—

From the Point Central to the Etangs Noirs and vice versâ	20
,, Porte de Flandre	10
From Ixelles to the Etangs Noirs	50

To St. Gilles—

From the Point Central to Ma Campagne, Uccle, and vice versâ	30
From the Point Central to St. Gilles barrière, Porte de Hal, Place de la Chapelle	20
From the Porte de Hal to Ma Campagne	20
,, St. Gilles (barrière)	10

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REGULATIONS OF PUBLIC CARRIAGES, FARES ETC.

For any distance in the City, such as from the Quartier Leopold to the Railway Stations, round the Bois de la Cambre to Boendael or the Cemeteries, but if discharged at these latter-named places, an extra franc is allowed for the return journey.

The fares of any distance beyond the places above-named are regulated at will. Coachmen are forbidden to exact more than the fixed prices, though the hirer can give a trifle *pour boire* if he wish.

From 6 a.m. to midnight. From midnight to 6 a.m.

Carriage and One Horse.

In Summer—from April 1st to November 30th.	fr. cs.	In Winter—from Dec. 1st to March 31st.	fr. cs.
First 20 minutes	1 00	First 20 minutes	2 0
Each ¼ of an hour after..	50	Each ¼ of an hour after..	1 0

Carriage and Two Horses.

In Summer.		In Summer.	
First ¼ of an hour	1 50	First half-hour	3 00
Each ¼ of an hour after..	75	Each ¼ of an hour after..	1 50
In Winter.		**In Winter.**	
First ¼ of an hour	2 00	First half-hour	4 00
Each ¼ of an hour after..	1 00	For one hour	6 00
		Each ¼ of an hour after..	1 50

Luggage is charged 15cs. each article which is placed on the outside of the vehicle.

Coachmen, who without being turned from their road, are required to put down *en route* one or more persons will only be entitled to the price of the course.

Coachmen taken before midnight and who arrive at their destination after midnight, are to be paid by the day tariff, but only for the first portion of the time. Those taken before six o'clock a.m. and who arrive at their destination after six o'clock a.m. will claim the right tariff, but only for the first portion of the time.

All Coachmen who have been called to take any person from a residence, and who are sent back without being employed, will be entitled to 50 centimes.

Coachmen are authorised to take the money in advance when conducting persons to the theatre, ball, concerts, or other places of amusements.

Coachmen are not obliged to allow more than three persons to ride in a one-horse or five in a two-horse vehicle.

Two children under eight years count as one person.

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TRAMWAYS.

These are comfortable, clean, and at low fares. They form a complete network of communication to nearly all parts of the city and suburbs, and are exceedingly well organised. A little attention to the direction of the routes taken, soon enables one to dispense with *Vigilantes* on most occasions, as being more expeditious and economical

From the Central Point, opposite the Bourse:

To the Church at Laeken, by the Boulevard de la Senne and Chaussée d'Anvers.

,, To the Place Liedts, by the Boulevard du Nord, Place des Nations and Rue de Brabant.

,, To the Laeken Bridge, by the Boulevard d'Anspach, the Boulevard, and Station du Nord, and Rue du Progrés.

,, To the Station du Midi, by the Boulevards d'Anspach and Hainaut.

,, To the Rue de Mérode at St. Gilles, by the Boulevard du Hainaut, Place de la Constitution, Rues Fosny, Claes, Constantinople, de Suède, and de Ninove.

,, To Anderlecht, by the Boulevard du Hainaut and Chaussée de Mons.

From the Place des Nations (Station du Nord):

To the Rond-point Rue de la Loi, and Station du Midi, by the Portes de Namur and de Hal, Boulevards Botanique, Bischoffsheim, du Regent, and Rue de la Loi (correspondence at corner of Rue de la Loi for the Rond-point).

,, To the Porte d'Anderlecht, by the Rues de Laeken, de la Vièrge Noire, des Poissoniers et d'Artevelde.

,, To the Station du Midi, by the Boulevards d'Anvers, de l'Entrepôt, Barthélemy, and du Midi.

From the Place Royale:

Rue de la Regence, Boulevard de Waterloo, Porte de Hal (Musée d'Antiquities), Boulevard du Midi, Portes d'Anderlecht, de Ninove, de Flandre, Boulevard Barthélemy, Porte d'Anvers, Station du Nord.

,, To the Station du Nord, Place des Palais, Rue Ducale and Boulevards; correspondence with trams at corner of the Rue Belliard for the Musée Wiertz and Parc Léopold.

,, Place Royale by the Rue de la Regence, Rue des Quatre-Bras, Chaussée de Charleroi to Uccle.

,, To the "Bois," by the Rue de la Regence, Rue des Quatre-Bras and Porte Louise.

From the Place des Palais (direct line from Schaerbeek to Wood):

To the Bois de la Cambre, by the Boulevard du Regent, Avenue de la Toison d'Or, and Avenue Louise.

,, To Schaerbeek, by the Rue Royale and Eglise St. Marie.

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From the Impasse du Parc:

To the Rond-point, Rue de la Loi.

From the Avenue Marnix:

To the Place St. Croix (Ixelles), by the Rue du Trône and the Rue Malibran.

From the Old Porte de Namur:

To the Avenue d'Auderghem, by the Chaussée de Wavre, Rue des Rentiers, and the Avenue d'Auderghem.

The fares are calculated, with few exceptions, at 5cs. per stage—with a minimum of 15cs. 1st class, and 10cs. 2nd class; 1st class being 5cs. extra on any distance.

Winter Service from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Summer Service from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

After this hour, if running, the fares are doubled.

——:o:——

SPECIAL TOWN TAX ON DOGS AND CARRIAGES.

As stated, the Province exacts a tax on dogs of from 5 to 35 francs, and we notice that in the City, the Commune charges also a tax of 5 and 10 francs, according to class.

There is also a tax emenating from the Police Offices, as is the case with dogs, of 30 francs for single horse and 50 francs for pair-horse carriages—this is the maximum annual charge for one or more. If not declared at once the tax is doubled.

——:o:——

AVERAGE SCALE OF PRICES OF PROVISIONS AT BRUSSELS.

	Each. fr. cs.	½ Kilo. fr. cs.
Bread ..... 42cs. per kilo		
Pistolets (Rolls)	5	
Flour		24
Biscuits are principally of English manufacture, Peak Frean's or Huntley and Palmer's.....		70 to 2 75
Meat, prices vary at different shops .....from		1 00
All round joints with bones, soup-meat or suet weighed in.		to 1 10
Meat, Prime Joints ..... without bone		1 25
,, Rump or Beef Steaks..... ,,		1 20
*Pork, Prime Joints ..... ,,		1 10
The cooks should understand all the joints.		

*At the *charcutiers* or pork butchers.

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SCALE OF PRICES Continued.

	Each. fr. cs.	½ Kilo. fr. cs.
Quarters of Lamb .....from 6fr. to	10 00	
Brisket of Beef ..... from 60cs. to		70
Soup Meat		80
Ox-Tails		1 00
Ox Hearts	1 75	
†Calf's Head, Parboiled	5 00	
If ordered dressed, but uncooked	7 00	
Calf's Sweatbreads .....from	1 50	
These are cheap during the summer months, but dear in winter.		
Calf's Heart	1 25	
,, Feet	25	
Hams, York		1 75
,, d'Ardennes		1 20
Bacon, English		1 60
Lard		90
Poultry—		
Small Chickens	2 00	
Chickens.....from 3fr. 50cs. to	4 50	
These are invariably young well-fed birds, much superior to our barn-door fowls.		
Fowls for boiling; sold as such are old and cheap.		
Capons (Very fine and fat) ..... from 5fr. to	8 00	
Ducklings (there are no large fine ducks)	2 00	
Wild Ducks	3 00	
Turkeys and Geese ..... from	8 00	
These are smaller and generally inferior in quality to our own.		
Game varies very considerably in prices according to the season, but the average is much about the same as in England.		
Rabbits, Wild, small and dear	2 00	
,, Ostend .....from	3 00	
Grives ..... .per dozen about	6 00	
Pigeons.....from 60cs. to	1 00	
Venison..... ....from 1fr. 00cs. to		1 50
Small and young, there are no large fat haunches.		
Cod, about 1f. per ½ kilo; Soles, from 2fr. per pair; Salmon, from 2fr. to 6fr. per ½ kilo; Skate, from 2fr. each; Turbot, from 5fr. each; Mackerel, 75cs. each; Oysters, 2fr. per dozen; Lobsters, from 3fr. each. Fish varies much in price, is generally dear at the retail shops.		
Fruit and Vegetables are plentiful and excellent in quality, and are cheaper than in English towns.		
†There are special shops in the Pte Rue des Bouchers where these items are sold.		

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SCALE OF PRICES Continued.

	fr.	cs.	
Sugar (Loaf) 65cs. to 70cs. ; Moist, *Cassonade*, 60cs. to		70	½ kilo.
Coffee ..... 1f. 00cs. to	2	00	,,
Cocoa	3	00	,,
Chololate ..... 1fr. 40cs. to	3	50	,,
Tea	4	00	,,
Composites	1	25	,,
Colza Oil		48	,,
Salad Oil (this it very fine here)	1	50	,,
,, flacons, 2fr. 70cs. ; ½ flacons, 1fr. 35cs.....			
Salt, 7cs. per ½ kilo ; Table		20	cake.
Pepper	2	00	½ kilo.
Vinegar, Ordinary, 40cs. ; White Wine		50	litre.
Mustard, Colman's ..... 70cs. to	2	25	½ kilo.
Pickles, English	1	10	bottle.
Sauces, English ..... 1fr. 25cs. to	1	50	,,
Jams, English	1	15	,,
Potted Meats, English	1	25	,,
Soups, English	1	30	tin.
Eggs ... . from 7cs. to		15	each.
Milk		24	litre.
Honey	1	30	½ kilo.
Butter ..... from 1fr. 65cs. to	2	00	,,
,, Salted	1	20	,,
Cheese, Dutch, 1fr. 20cs ; Edam, 90cs. to 1fr. 00cs. ;			
Gruyère, 1fr. 20cs ; Cheshire	1	50	,,
Maccaroni, Vermicelli		60	,,
Oatmeal, Scotch (this should be obtained from England)		50	,,
Rice ..... from 20cs. to		50	,,
Raisins ..... from 70cs to	1	00	,,
Figs		40	,,
Almonds	1	30	,,
Soap, 50cs. per ½ kilo ; Windsor, 15cs .. per doz. cakes	1	70	
Starch		45	,,
Eau de Cologne, medium size	1	40	bottle.

Clothing is dearer than in England. Gloves are well made, and there is a large export trade in the same. Lace is of very elegant design and texture, and may be purchased here to advantage *with discretion*. The same may be said of Jewellery. Gold and silver are stamped according to quality. Firearms may be purchased reasonably.

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DANCING ACADEMY.

There is a very respectable Dancing Academy, conducted by Mons. Kevers, Rue du Parchemin.

——:o:——

CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

There is an English Circulating Library in the Rue de Namur, near the Place Royale.

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Opinions of the Press

GLOBE. — THE FAMILY GUIDE TO BRUSSELS. — By J. R. Scott. (*Stanford.*) — Mr. Scott is English agent at Brussels, and has written this book as an answer to the numerous inquiries addressed to him by people who want to get houses or apartments in that city. The volume appears to be a most complete and practical guide. It gives advice as to everything; where and when you should take a house; whether apartments should be furnished or unfurnished; what little inquiries you should make about drains, chimneys, gas, or water; what stipulations should be provided as to plate, linen, crockery, or blankets; where you are to get your pianoforte, washing, education, or donkeys. Not a detail appears to be omitted; and for people about to visit Brussels we strongly recommend the volume.

STANDARD. — This is an excellent guide-book to the traveller, with useful details upon hiring houses, furniture, the cost of living, education, and all other matters of interest, and worth knowing in the case of a stranger.

BELL'S WEEKLY MESSENGER. — To any one intending to visit, or to reside in, the Belgian capital, this little book will supply a large amount of indispensable information and may, therefore, be highly recommended on this account.

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CENTRAL PRESS. — This little volume will amply meet the case of those who contemplate residing abroad for a time. The writer, who has resided in Belgium several years, in the capacity of English agent at Brussels, gives in this volume the summary of his personal experience in a very complete and useful form. Every information that a family requires on subjects affecting their daily wants, expenses, etc., is given much more fully than in the numerous continental guides which the public already possesses. In a chapter on the Belgian court there are some interesting remarks on the popularity of the Royal Family amongst English People. He says. " It is no exaggeration to say that there is not a Royal Family on the Continent which enjoys half so much popularity amongst English people as the Belgian of Leopold the Second, the accomplished son of the sagacious founder of the present dynasty, who lives in the hearts of his people of every grade, from the mansion to the cottage; one can scarcely feel too sanguine of the happy results which are likely to attend this country by his reign, if a long life be vouchsafed him, and should European political complications leave him and his consort undisturbed to the performance of their peaceful routine of state duties and pleasures, in the discharge of which they are not unmindful; still young, succeeding to immense private wealth, they will not fail to raise their court to an enviable reputation, and make it one of the most attractive in Europe. " This book will be appreciated by the class for which it is intended.

LIVERPOOL ALBION. — Brussels, the Queen of Cities and the most formidable rival of Paris, has always been favored by the English as a residence. Within a few years past, living was less costly than at home, and its educational facilities were also considered very advantageous. Now, however, the cost of living has become more equalized, but many of the other claims of the

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Belgian city still remain. Each of these is explained in Mr. Scott's book; there is no romancing, the advantages and disadvantages being fairly submitted, so that intending visitors can make themselves familiar with the smallest details prior to completing their arrangements.

Lloyd's Newspaper. — The Family guide to Brussels, by Mr Scott, of Brussels, is a compact little book, comprising hints upon hiring houses, furniture, servants, cost of living, education, and the general information necessary for a family purposing to reside in that city. Mr. J. R. Scott has much, very much, to say on all these questions; but hardly a word for the architectural, picturesque beauties of the quaint old town, with its curiously roofed houses, its multiplicity of handsome buildings and old associations, and its gay, picturesque *Montagne de la Cour*. On questions of houses or apartments, leases, good shops for various articles, favorable localities for intending residents, carriage hire, etc, Mr. Scott's volume is invaluable.

Sunday Times. — In this book which is written by an English resident in Belgium, we have a full account of those particulars English families going te reside in that country would most need. We have tested the work and find it fulfils its promises with truthfulness altogether rare.

Examiner. — To show that Brussels is a little Heaven on earth, is, as we understand it, the object of Mr. Scott's " Family Guide to Brussels ". It gives very precise information about houses, lodgings, servants, taxes, and everything that an intending resident is likely to wish to know.

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WEEKLY TIMES. — Now that Paris is virtually closed against holiday visitors, or others who find a residence on the continent desirable, Brussels will, no doubt, rise in public estimation. This little capital offers many advantages to English emigrants — more indeed, than Paris. — Education and living are cheaper, society is less exclusive, and as regards the language, if an Englishman can speak French as well as an educated Bruxellois, he need not be ashamed to open his mouth in any salon. At such a time as this, Mr. Scott's book is very seasonable. Paterfamilias, meditating a residence in Belgium will find here all the information he can possibly desire — school terms, rent of houses and apartments, furniture, leases, taxes, servants and their wages, price of provisions, clothing, etc., etc. In short, it would be hard to specify the information a stranger in Brussels requires which he would not find in this "Family Guide." The passing traveller of a day, and the family intending to reside in the city for years, will find it equally serviceable, and we may add (for the latter) indispensable.

LEEDS MERCURY. — Mr. Scott's Guide to Brussels affords much valuable information on subjects affecting the daily wants of British tourists or residents in the capital of Belgium. As English agent at Brussels, Mr. Scott's assistance has been frequently invoked by his countrymen, and in the present volume he presents the results of his experience for their benefit.

The information, which embraces hints upon hiring houses, furniture, servants, costs of living and education, is conveyed in a concise and intelligible form. For families intending to reside in Brussels, Mr. Scott's book will be found most useful.

CITY PRESS. — Guide Books are not as a rule lively reading, and Mr. Scott's smartly-bound volume forms no exception to this

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rule, but to those who wish for information respecting the mode and cost of living at Brussels, will find his experience of great value. Filling an important position in that town, Mr. Scott has, it seems, at various times received many inquiries on these points, and the answers given have here been generalized and amplified for the use of all who may be desirous of sharing the information imparted under such circumstances. He has much to say in favour of Brussels as a residence, and will doubtless help many heads of families to a decision in its behalf when weighing the merits of Continental towns.

Guernsey Mail and Telegraph. — We have great pleasure in recommending Mr Scott's cheap and unpretending little volume to the notice of our readers, generally its main object is to furnish useful information to families desirous of locating themselves, either permanently or for a year or two at Brussels, but it will be found highly useful also to such English tourists as may be disposed to pay a flying visit thither during the approaching long vacation. . . . . .

. . . . . .

Mr J. R. Scott, unlike most of the local guides with whom we are acquainted, is no indiscriminating panegyrist, but writes dispassionately. "It is not, (says he,) my intention to paint every thing *au couleur de Rose.*" We feel therefore that we may rely as well upon his candour as his intelligence, and follow with undoubting faith his preliminary remarks, his sketches of the localities — which we know enough of the good city of Brussels to verify from recollection — as also his estimate, a very practical one, of the comparative advantages and disadvantages of furnished or unfurnished houses, residence at an hotel, or in private apartments, with or without attendance, plate, linen, pianofortes, etc. Not a few shrewd hints are interspersed amongst more imposing if not more important matters, as to the

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selection of domestics, native or foreign, nor can we doubt that even the least experienced wanderer, would, if provided with this useful *vade-mecum*, quite overmatch the very craftiest swindlers who ever « chiselled » a confiding simpleton, since Ambrosa de Lamela, the sanctimonious, aided by the gay Don Raphael, and his fair sister Camilla « niece to the governor of the Philippine islands », victimized at Villadolid, suing, sapient, and self-complacent Signor Gil Blas de Santillane. No! No! those cheats must get up very early who seek to dupe one of Mr. J. R. Scott's disciples, seeing that Mr. S. is wise enough to think nothing too insignificiant or too minute, which effects directly or indirectly either the interest or the comfort of his readers. " Though we address ourselves (says he) more particularly to those who choose a continental residence in an economical point of view, and who do not mind availing themselves of the information necessary to carry out that object. Other visitors may also gather hints, which will save them much trouble and needless expense; and having endeavoured to explain the customs of the country, the rules and ways of Belgian trades-people and lodginghouse keepers, in particular as applied to English visitors, every class, by a perusal of our remarks, will perhaps be better able to cope successfully with any little difficulty ."

This is a very modest estimate of a volume which though small is trustworthy, well arranged and valuable. Though Mr. J. R. Scott in all probability thinks it both best and fairest to err upon the safe side, we should deem ourselves unjust alike to him and to our readers if our silence led the latter to suppose that he can do nothing more than guard them against imposition.

" It is a poor heart that never rejoices, " says the English adage, and under the guidance of our author, we may gain easy access to the sights, museums, and public institutions of the Belgian capital.

As for the excursions in and about Brussels and its immediate environs, they are numerous and the best houses readily acces-

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sible. Its *Hotel de Ville*, of historical celebrity, — since few we trust are altogether unacquainted with Mr Motley's " Netherlands ", or " Rise and Progress of the Dutch Republic "; in both of which works that fine specimen of medieval architecture very largely figures. The noble picture and sculpture galleries which abound in Brussels — Groenendael, Trois-Fontaines, Laeken, and above all the battle-field of Waterloo, at which English pluck proved an overmatch for French dash and wildfire, are touched each in turn by a graphic and discriminating pencil. In fine, while every lover of statistics or student of political economy may judge for himself how far the abolition of primo geniture and the consequent severance of large landed estates into numerous small holdings has increased or lessened the sum of human happiness throughout the kingdom; — the moral philosopher can not but perceive with delight, that their sharp experience of religious persecution during the XVI and XVII centuries, has taught the Belgians of our own day to appreciate the blessedness and the duty of universal tolerance.

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"THE FAMILY GUIDE TO BRUSSELS," by J. R. SCOTT, gives all the information which the Author thinks likely to be required by families about to reside there, but any enquiry addressed to him will meet with due attention and a prompt reply. All communications will be treated as strictly confidential.

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